

ST. GABRIEL'S CE PRIMARY
SCHOOL

COLLECTIVE
WORSHIP POLICY



September 2020

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Name of School	St. Gabriel's CE Primary School
Status	Voluntary Controlled
Denomination	Church of England
Date of Policy	July 2021
Member of staff responsible	Mrs L Brown
Review Date	July 2022

Our Christian Vision

Our St Gabriel's family nurtures every child to develop a sense of self belief, giving them **courage** to take risks in a bid to be the best that they can be. They develop **friendship** and **respect** for each other. They are surrounded by God's **love**, guiding them to offer **forgiveness** for those who may do wrong against them. They do this knowing that Jesus is by their side, guiding them to flourish, as they follow their chosen path.

Philippians 4:13 I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength.

Collective worship is a time when we come together to share our love of God, affirm our beliefs in him and focus on how we can do God's work. Collective Worship is a time for learning, reflection and celebration. The worship of the school is based on promoting Christian values which permeate the ethos of our school. As such the contributions of staff, pupils, church clergy and other visitors are highly valued. Through worship, we seek to encourage the attitudes of awe and wonder.

Aims/ Objectives

What is Collective Worship?

We as a school believe that good collective worship should:

- worship God
- consider spiritual and moral issues and to explore their own beliefs
- encourage participation and response, whether through active involvement in the presentation of worship or through listening to and joining in the worship offered,
- develop community spirit, promote a common ethos and shared values, and reinforce positive attitudes
- enable children to explore and enjoy praise and prayer.
- be a special time enabling children and adults present to worship together in a distinctly spiritual atmosphere conducive to worship and to have an awareness of God's presence.
- foster a spirit of belonging within the school.

- enable children to appreciate, explore and know how others worship God and why they worship in a particular way, thus fostering new insights and empathy about the life of faith of others.
- provide an opportunity to worship together, thinking about the needs of others with care and sensitivity, fostering a concern for the needs of others regardless of race, colour or creed.
- Encourage pupils to experience a greater awareness of the relationship between God and self.
- Lead worship with music, prayer and stillness and provide an atmosphere in which people worship.
- Provide opportunity for reflection
- Provide the opportunity for involvement in giving thanks and for enjoying the unity that derives from sharing love, joy, hope and friendship;
- Give pupils experience of being active members of a caring community by fostering an atmosphere of love, security and kindness;
- Enable pupils to respond and participate in a variety of ways;
- Offer an opportunity to explore concepts of right and wrong.

Concepts

Through acts of worship children will be helped to become aware of the ways in which Christian faith influences all aspects of life. Key concepts which reflect the broadest traditions of Christian belief will be developed.

Spirituality

At St. Gabriel's CE we believe children live up to their potential if they are happy, have fun, feel nurtured and grow from a foundation of strong Christian Values. Hence our school tag line –

'Happy children learn'

We value spirituality and the holistic development of the child. We fully embrace the National Curriculum by “promoting pupils’ spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.” Our role as educators is to guide the children in our care along the path of life, therefore Spiritually plays a big part in our daily worship.

“We touch spirituality when we encounter an experience on life’s journey that causes us to reflect on the deeper things of life, its meaning and our purpose within it, and as a consequence our lives are transformed.” Jon Westwood.

As children grow in their understanding of spirituality and values are embedded, they become secure enough to make mistakes and therefore move on with their spiritual learning and academic growth.

Celebrations and festivals from all Faiths

We follow the Christian calendar and during Collective Worship we love to celebrate key significant key events together that are important to Christians. Children also have the opportunity to explore and compare other faiths and religions with a key focus on Celebrations and festivals.

British Values

Our school reflects British Values in all we do. We encourage our children to be creative, unique, open-minded and independent individuals, respectful of themselves and of others in our school, our local community and the wider world. We aim to nurture our children on their journey through life so they can grow into safe, caring, democratic, responsible and tolerant adults who make a positive difference to British Society and to the world.

Our School, Christian and British Values together

The British Values and our Christian/School Values link well together-

Democracy – Justice/Trust /Hope/Togetherness/Hope

The Rule of Law - Fellowship/Service

Individual Liberty –Peace/Humility/Endurance/Belief/Love/Perseverance/Dreams

Mutual Respect – Compassion/Forgiveness /Friendship /Thankfulness /Wisdom / Reverence/Resilience/Patience

Tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.

Links with St. Gabriel's Church

Worship services will be held in St. Gabriel's Church to celebrate special occasions. These are led by Father Stephen. Parents and others members of the school community are invited to take part in these services. These services provide a broader aspect to the daily acts of worship held in school. They give the opportunity for children to worship in a special place and to share experiences with members of the church community who may not always be involved in daily school life. The services often involve the children in participating in the worship themselves through music, drama and readings.

Father Stephen comes in to school each Thursday to lead worship with the whole school. He is also actively involved with the RE across the school supporting where he can.

Organisation

Daily acts of worship take place at various times and in various groupings throughout each week.

We conduct collective worship in a dignified and respectful way. Worship time is a period of calm reflection. We regard it as a special time and expect children to behave in an appropriate way.

Music is used at the start of each act of collective worship to focus children's minds, help them to settle and prepare for worship and offer a time for personal prayer. We usually light a candle and say a blessing to focus the act of worship. (except on a Friday as children come to the front to collect certificates) We use visual stimulus in the form of the large whiteboard, objects, children and adults acting as a focal point for the attention of the children. A child is chosen each time we have key stage 2 or full worship to give feedback about the collective worship in order for staff to continually look at ways to improve it.

Leadership of the whole school acts of worship is usually shared between the headteacher, Deputy Headteacher, Assistant Head and the vicar of St. Gabriel's Church.

Whole family collective worship is mainly led by the Headteacher. This act of worship, in particular, will include a celebration of achievements of pupils in all areas, and is shared and enjoyed by all members of the school community.

There is also the opportunity for pupils to join with pupils from other schools in the Diocese for Acts of Worship. Year 2 have participated in the "Rochdale Anglican Federation Banner Service", usually held in June at St. Chad's Parish Church in Rochdale; Year 4 have engaged in a shared service with other Year 4 classes across Rochdale and Year 6 annually participate in the Diocesan Leavers' Service at Manchester Cathedral.

School Prayers

Collective worship always includes a time of prayer and/or reflection, including hymn singing and hymn practice. A range of prayers is used including the Lord's Prayer, The School Prayer and prayers written by the children, staff and governors. At the beginning of the lunch hour, grace is said by every child in each class. Prayers are also said at the end of the school day.

Content and Planning

The acts of worship will be of a broadly Christian nature and will reflect the broad traditions of Christian belief.

Acts of worship will be planned in themes. These themes will be drawn from a variety of sources – the Church year, the calendar – seasonal issues, national events, local events, school events and issues related to the rest of the curriculum.

Traditional elements of worship such as prayers, music and sacred writings will be supported by other elements to create stimulating and imaginative assemblies.

Records

Records of daily acts of worship are kept and filed. The records are available to view on request in writing to the headteachers.

Legal Position

This policy sets out the aims, objectives and details of school worship and is in accordance with the legal requirements as set out in the Education Act.

Parental rights of withdrawal

Parents have the right to request withdrawal of their children from collective worship. Such requests should be made in writing to the headteacher.

APPENDIX 1

Times and Grouping for Daily Acts of Worship

<u>Day</u>	<u>Grouping</u>	<u>Time</u>
Monday	Whole school	10.10 am
Tuesday	Juniors Infants – in class	9.10 am 10.10am
Wednesday	Infants Juniors – in class	10.10 am 9.10 am
Thursday	Year 1 to Year 6 Collective worship & Hymn practice	10.10 am
Friday	Whole school family assembly	9.10 am

If a class should miss the daily act of worship for any reason e.g. swimming lessons, then a class act of worship should be held at an alternative and suitable time in the day.

All classes have prayers for dinnertime and at home time each day.