



Greenfylde Church of England First School

Collective Worship Policy

School Vision

Our doors are open – everyone is welcome in Greenfylde C of E First School. As a school community we seek through shared service to support children, families and wider community; encouraging high expectation, hope and support for aspirations and an understanding that all deserve to receive and give respect and dignity.

'...life in all its fullness' John 10:10

Background

A daily act of Collective Worship is a legal requirement in all schools. This Collective Worship Policy has been formally adopted by the governing body, in consultation with the headteacher and teaching staff and we have expressed our commitment through our school vision (see above) and ethos.

Our school is a Voluntary Controlled School with a religious character and collective worship is delivered in accordance with the Trust Deed relating to the school.

Our Policy

- This policy takes account of worship guidelines published by The Diocese of Bath and Wells.
- In line with The Section 23 Inspection Handbook Collective Worship at our school is 'broad and balanced in its use of mainly Christian material including, when appropriate, aspects of the Anglican tradition.' We make good use of The Minster in addition to our school hall and classrooms for worship.
- The faith background of staff and children is respected at all times. DFE Circular 1/94*, paragraph 32 states that an agreed syllabus 'must not be designed to convert pupils, or to urge a particular religion or religious belief on pupils.'

Aims and Objectives

The purpose of collective worship:-

- Sense of belonging
- Celebrate shared journey into and with God
- Time for spiritual reflection
- Insight into spiritual aspects beyond the material
- To offer experience of worship
- Exploring together Christian beliefs and values

The Section 23 Inspection Handbook requires Collective Worship to be '*broad and*

balanced in its use of mainly Christian material, including, when appropriate, aspects of the Anglican tradition'. We comply by:-

- Using the Bible as a source book for inspiration and learning
- Reflecting upon Christian symbols and their use in worship (for example, bread, wine, chalice, cross and crucifix are symbols which lead to an understanding of the meaning of, Jesus' death and resurrection)
- Observing the cycle of the Church's year: Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, Pentecost, and Saints' Days.
- Saying and learning prayers from a wide range of sources including traditional prayers such as the Lord's Prayer, as well as more contemporary prayers and prayers written by the children
- Singing hymns ranging from modern to traditional
- Participating in aspects of the set order of Anglican worship by, for instance:
 - using prayers from Common Worship, including the Grace;
 - using sentences and responses from Anglican worship e.g. *The Lord is Here/His Spirit is with us; Peace be with you/and also with you; Go in peace to love and serve the Lord/In the name of Christ, Amen*
 - linking the experiences of pupils at school to those they may experience at their local church and vice versa
 - Providing opportunities to discover the value of reflection and silence with the context of Christian worship
 - Recognising the Anglican Church's commitment to ecumenism
 - Encouraging and nurturing links between the school and the local clergy and other members of the parish

Collective Worship offers an experience of Christian Worship and introduces pupils to the Anglican heritage in a way which is inclusive not exclusive. Opportunities for reflection and prayer are offered in ways which enable children either to join in or remain alongside the worship without feeling left out.

We aim to provide for opportunities as included in the North Somerset publication *Nourishing the Spirit(1988)*, which gives some reasons why it is good to hold Collective Worship in school:-

- Gives both body and spirit time to breathe, offering space and stillness before or during a hectic and pressured day to be oneself, to reflect or just to sit and rest.
- May provide an opportunity for pupils and staff to come close to God and to reflect on the most important directions and values for their lives.
- May provide a time which pupils can make their own.
- Is one of the few occasions in a week of schooling that offers, or should offer, space for the spirit.
- Can help pupils ponder on the many ultimate questions life presents, and know that others of all ages ponder these too.
- Help to foster a spirit of community in a school.
- Enables the overall personality and ethos of the school to come across to everyone.
- Is an opportunity to share and reinforce the values the school seeks to live by.
- Can be a time of sharing those things that unite, whilst acknowledging or celebrating the diversity of beliefs and values within and beyond school.
- Can offer insights into religious and other beliefs and commitments in an open way.
- Can be a time to present genuinely alternative views of life and lifestyles for pupils to consider.

- Can enable the joys and sorrows of those present to be reflected upon and shared in a way which is otherwise not possible in school.
- Enables individuals and groups of staff and pupils to share their concerns, interests and reflections.

Music, art, prayer and stilling are used within the context of Collective Worship to help children develop the ability to reflect on their own inner feelings. This is easiest to manage in classroom acts of worship or with small groups.

Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development

Please see the separate policy which is embodied in the school aims and is incorporated within Collective Worship.

Collective Worship and School Vision and Ethos

Collective worship is delivered in accordance with the principles of the church at parish and diocesan level. The school aims to serve its community by providing education of the highest quality within the context of Christian belief and practice. Collective worship encourages an understanding of the meaning of faith and promotes Christian values through the experience it offers pupils. The vision and ethos of the school promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, emotional, social and academic progress of every child. We strive for a safe, secure and positive learning environment in which all learners can thrive.

Organisation

We have adopted the Collective Worship plans developed by the Diocese of Rochester**.

Delivery of Collective Worship

Collective worship takes place daily and is delivered by the headteacher, teachers, children and team from The Minster, as well as visiting speakers and leaders from both within and beyond Christianity. The venues include the school hall and The Minster for whole school Collective Worship / Key Stage acts of worship and the classrooms for class acts of worship. Each of these groupings lends itself to a different kind of worship where children may benefit from a richer, broader experience of collective worship. The Minster is used for events on the religious calendar including Harvest, Easter, Christmas and also for The Leavers assembly.

Collective worship should not be confused with 'Assembly' when only information is given out, good work celebrated or behaviour is discussed. Collective Worship is organised by the Collective worship co-ordinator Andrea Jones. She liaises with staff, clergy and other visitors.

Our planning ensures that different Christian concepts are delivered weekly. Evaluations are completed by professionals and in consultation with children through pupil forum and discussions with the HT/DHT. Collective Worship is also discussed at relevant INSETS and staff meetings. Foundation Governors over viewing Collective Worship will monitor periodically and liaise with the subject co-ordinator.

Role of the Collective Worship Co-Ordinator

- The co-ordinator has the responsibility to keep up to date with subject development and share expertise with colleagues.
- The Collective Worship co-ordinator will work in conjunction with the Key Stage leaders and Clergy team to support Collective Worship in our school.
- This policy will be reviewed every three years or as required by the co-ordinator. It is subject to review in accordance with school development planning.

Parental Right of Withdrawal

Families who send their children to this school are in the main Christian, but we do have some children from religions other than Christianity as well as those with no formal church links or religious beliefs. Parents have a right to withdraw their children from Collective Worship and Religious Education. The school remains responsible for the supervision of any child withdrawn from Collective Worship or RE, unless the child is lawfully receiving RE or taking part in Collective Worship elsewhere.

Parents do not need to explain their reasons for seeking withdrawal. To avoid misunderstanding the headteacher may wish to clarify with any parent wanting to withdraw:-

- The religious issues about which the parent would object their child being taught.
- The practical implications of withdrawal (use of spare room -supervised by teaching assistants).
- The circumstances in which it would be reasonable to accommodate parents' wishes.
- If a parent will require any advanced notice of such issue in the future and if so, how much.

In conclusion we believe that Collective Worship at Greenfylde Church of England V.C First School is central to the life and well being of the school. The school serves its community by providing high quality educational provision within the context of Christian belief and practice. Collective Worship encourages an understanding of the meaning and significance of faith and promotes Christian values, striving to preserve and develop its religious character in accordance with the principles of the Church of England and in partnership with the church at parish and diocesan level.