



Collective Worship Policy

Policy Control	
Responsible Person:	Catharine Omer
Responsible Governor Team:	Teaching and Learning
Approved by Governors:	May 2016
Date due for review:	May 2019

Our school policies are written with the objective of continuously improving the school in our aim of realising the school's vision:

Goudhurst & Kilndown Church of England Primary School will provide a happy, caring and stimulating environment rooted in Christian values in which every child will flourish. We will realise the potential of every child and instil a lifelong love of learning. Our approach to teaching and learning will be inclusive, supportive and innovative and will embrace new education initiatives and leading technology. We will ensure that our children are aware of the world in which they live, understand the need to play an active role within the local and wider community and appreciate the importance of living a sustainable way of life. In partnership with parents and carers, we will help our children to build high self-esteem, independence and resilience and to develop the life skills they need for their future in an ever-changing world.

Our School Values

Goudhurst and Kilndown Church of England Primary School values

Community • Friendship • Joy • Love • Peace • Trust

and all our stakeholders are encouraged to *reflect* upon their learning and their actions

“To worship is to quicken the conscience by the holiness of God, to feed the mind with the truth of God, to purge the imagination by the beauty of God, to open the heart to the love of God and to devote the will to the purpose of God”.

William Temple (1881-1894)

Mission Statement – Enjoy Achieve Together

Introduction

Our Collective Worship policy strengthens and supports the Christian identity of our school, reaffirms our Christian and life values of community, friendship, joy, love, peace and trust and celebrates the contribution that each of the children makes to our community. Our values are based on biblical teaching and have been carefully chosen to establish a positive ethos and lived out in everyday situations. All children, staff, governors and parents are made aware of these values through Collective Worship, RE teaching, induction, newsletters and the school website.

Worship will reflect the variety of traditions found in the Church of England, and will recognize and follow the Christian liturgical year. The daily Christian act of worship is central to our ethos with God by our side and is supported by all staff and governors.

Aims

Collective Worship at Goudhurst & Kilndown Church of England Primary School contributes greatly to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of our children and will support the school’s Mission Statement, by providing opportunities for students and staff:

- to explore a relationship with God in Jesus Christ through worship and use of the Bible
- to reflect on values that are of a broadly Anglican Christian tradition, whilst recognizing the validity and importance of other Christian denominations, religions and belief systems
- to consider spiritual and moral issues and, through reflection (sometimes silent), raise awareness of the ultimate questions of life relating to matters of faith
- to have the opportunity to pray, both individually and corporately
- to reflect on their own beliefs
- to deepen and widen the experience of those of ‘faith’ and encourage those of ‘little or no formal faith’ so that they begin to feel for themselves something of what it means to worship
- to develop an enquiring mind and express and explore their own views openly and honestly
- to develop a positive community spirit, a common ethos and shared values
- to foster an awareness of the world around them and a sense of their place within it
- to develop a respect for and an understanding of different beliefs
- to develop a sense of sharing and belonging through different groups of students coming together

Christian Values

The Christian Values of the school, which are based on biblical teaching, have been chosen to help establish a positive ethos and are lived out in everyday situations. All stakeholders are made aware of these values through Collective Worship, RE teaching, induction, newsletters and the school website. Each term we focus on one value.

Our six values are:

Community- The Lost Sheep and Lost Coin **Luke 15:4-10**

Peace- The Good Samaritan **Luke 10:30-37**

Joy- The Pearl of Great Price **Matthew 13:45-46**

Love- The Prodigal Son **Luke 15:11-32**

Friendship- The Invitation to the Banquet **Matthew 22:2-14**

Trust- The Wise and Foolish Builders **Luke 6:47-49**

The Anglican Christian Tradition

The following may be described as shared Christian elements of Collective Worship:

- using the Bible as a source of knowledge and inspiration for themes and stories
- observing the cycle of the Church's Year – Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, Pentecost, Saints Days
- learning and saying prayers from a number of sources, in particular the Lord's Prayer, response during Collective Worship and the Grace
- active involvement in worship with participation and response whether through active involvement in the presentation of worship or through listening to and joining in the worship offered
- singing a wide variety of hymns and songs from traditional to contemporary
- experiencing Christian symbols in worship and reflecting on their meaning eg cross, crucifix, bread and wine, and candles, and other appropriate artefacts such as music, film and art.
- the use of prayer, silence and reflection
- using Psalms with simple responses – Taizé style

Whilst these are more distinctively Anglican:

- using prayers from Common Worship
- using Anglican sentences and responses 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*
- using Collects as a focus for worship
- celebrating Eucharist
- encouraging links with the worship of the local Parish Church, St Mary's, Goudhurst and Christ Church, Kilndown.

Worship

The daily act of worship is, Christian and Denominational and follows a four part structure of *gather* (with music and a focal point), *engage* (the main content and could include drama, story or activities), *respond* (prayer, song) and *send* (exit routines) providing a clear and consistent framework for leading worship.

All acts of worship have a Bible story or Bible passage at their heart, together with a worship song and prayer. Key ideas and key teaching from Christianity are always the focus. The intention is that the ideas should be developed with this in mind. Wherever possible, links are made to the school's values. As a Church school, teachings and ideas from other faith traditions are explored in RE rather than as part of an act of Christian worship.

The whole school, including staff, is present for every Collective Worship which begins promptly at 10am and lasts for 25 minutes. Details are posted on the school portal for reference.

Special services are held in St Mary's Church to celebrate Harvest, Christmas, Christingle, Ash Wednesday and Easter. Special Holy Communion services are held at Christ Church,

Kilndown for Key Stage 2. Parents and Governors are invited to join us in these services. Year 6 commemorate Remembrance as well.

- Monday – Headteacher – Celebration Worship which includes the elements required for an Act of Worship as well as an opportunity to recognise and celebrate achievement, together with an award recognising the current term's Christian value for children who have lived this value consistently during the previous week.
- Tuesday – Music Co-ordinator
- Wednesday – Rev'd Hugh/Kev Draper or other Church Representative (eg the Church Army)
- Thursday – RE Co-ordinator
- Friday – Headteacher

Plans for Collective Worship are recorded on the school portal for staff to refer to and link to the Church Year and value of the term. www.assemblies.org is a useful site and is used for carefully selected Collective Worship ideas. Collective Worship is also monitored regularly by the RE Co-ordinator and children.

Care is taken to make the setting for the act of worship special for the occasion. Music is played as the children enter and leave quietly, an altar is placed centrally at the front displaying liturgical colours and a candle is lit as part of the initial welcome to worship. The four part structure of gather, engage, respond and send is followed with prayer usually (but not always) at the end. The atmosphere is reverent and children are expected to be quiet and respectful, even as they lead out and the hall prepared for the next activity.

A predominant display area is outside the hall in the main corridor with an interactive section for children to add comments to for further reflection and prayer. The school also has a Peace Garden which can be used for reflection and prayer by all children and adults.

Children as Leaders

A group of children are chosen each term to support collective worship by setting up seating and running audio-visual facilities in the hall. Children make power point presentations to help focus thought on the current theme. They also assist with presenting news items and collating information for celebration worship.

Children write and read prayers to match the assembly themes each day. Indeed children play an active part in daily acts of worship and have opportunities to plan and leading worship both in school and for church services.

Health, Safety and Well-being

In Collective Worship, we follow the school's health, safety and well-being policy. For example, appropriate care must be taken when using lighted candles and electrical equipment. In line with our 'net-safety' policy, any internet resources used must be checked by the worship leader, prior to their use in act of Collective Worship. In the event of fire, all children and staff must be familiar with exit routes from the hall. Similarly, children and staff must be familiar with exit routes from St Mary's and Christ Church. Visitors must not be left unaccompanied with children.

Equal Opportunities and Inclusion

Collective Worship will challenge stereotypes, misinformation and misconceptions about race, ethnicity, religion, gender and disability. During Collective Worship, if other religions are referred to, this will be in a fair and accurate manner, affirming diversity and equality.

Monitoring and Evaluation

As part of the school's monitoring programme it is the role of the Headteacher and Foundation governor to monitor individual acts of Collective Worship and feed back to the Full Governing Body. This formal monitoring should take place three times per year and be reported on the pro-forma attached to this policy. Monitoring and evaluation of Collective Worship should be on the agenda of the Full Governing Body meeting at least annually.

Leaders of Act of Worship are expected to evaluate the Act and children are encouraged to share their thoughts and prayers. Evaluations are kept in the Collective Worship folder held with the RE Co-ordinator.

As part of our pupil voice, a random selection of pupils are asked to comment on their experiences of and responses to Collective Worship at least three times a year and further comments are invited from the School Council. Class teachers invite feedback from children on a regular basis. Staffs discuss Collective Worship at staff meetings as necessary, recorded in the minutes of staff meetings.

Parents are invited to comment on Collective Worship, eg via a questionnaire at parent consultation meetings, at least annually.

Self-assessment and Inspection

School Self-assessment is completed on the SIAMS Toolkit by the Headteacher, the RE Coordinator and the Church Foundation Governor and is reviewed and updated regularly. We are inspected by both SIAMS and Ofsted. In the 2013 SIAS Inspection the school was judged to be "Outstanding". Comments from the inspection include "Worship is at the heart of the school community", "There are high expectations for pupils both academically, pastorally and spiritually", "...the children think that times of reflection are important as they help them to think about the way they live their lives and behave towards others". We are proud of this judgement and are working to build further on the strong links between church and school. Click [here](#) to read the full report. Ofsted make the final judgements about the quality of teaching and learning in RE.

Parental Withdrawal

Parents have the right to withdraw their child/children from acts of Collective Worship on grounds of conscience. However, as Collective Worship is central to our ethos we would appreciate the opportunity to discuss this decision with parents.

Appendices:

- Inviting Visitors to lead Collective Worship,
- Monitoring of Collective Worship by adult and child sheets.

Inviting Visitors to lead Collective Worship

When briefing visitors for school worship, make sure you tell them:

- who exactly will attend, whether it will be the whole school or a section of it, and if so, which section
- what the school's aims, ethos and policies are
- how long the speaker is expected to talk for (10 – 12 minutes)
- the current assembly theme and context for the speaker - what has already been done and what will be done later in the term
- how children and staff are normally involved in Collective Worship
- what resources or hardware are available to them, should they so wish
- exactly how much their contribution will be - is it just the talk or will they be asked to choose the hymn and lead the prayers

and remember to:

- give them plenty of notice - don't assume that a visitor who wears an RE or religious "hat" can produce an assembly at a few moments notice!
- invite them to attend an act of Collective Worship beforehand so that they may see how the school conducts them, or, if this is not practical, lend them a copy of the Collective Worship policy document
- some visitors may also need to be told that Collective Worship is not an appropriate vehicle for hard sell evangelism, and that inclusive language ("we all believe...") is to be avoided.

Visitors who are regularly involved in Collective Worship should appreciate sensitive feedback on the appropriateness of their contribution to the school worship programme.

And finally.... NEVER leave a visiting speaker to take an act of Collective Worship alone, it is bad manners, bad educational practice, and bad churchmanship!

Goudhurst & Kilndown Church of England Primary School Monitoring of Collective Worship

Date:	Leader:	Theme:	
Opening responsorial Y/N Other opening?	Closing prayer Y/N Other closing format? Was worship clearly differentiated from the rest of assembly? Y/N	Hymn:	Time for quiet thinking or reflection?
Class teacher/adult representing each class present? Y/N Others present?	What is used to create a worshipful atmosphere? Music for entry into and out of assembly to produce a quiet calm atmosphere. Candle lit by	Opportunities for pupils to be involved: - Lighting the candle.	
Content:			
Pupil Engagement/Enjoyment The children were thoroughly engaged in the interactive story and thought carefully about the answers that they gave throughout.			
Monitored by:			
Any action points to identify at feedback?			

**Goudhurst & Kilndown Church of England Primary School
Children's Evaluation of Collective Worship**

Date:

Theme:

Led by:

Evaluated by:

What was today's Collective Worship about?

What have you learnt from this Act of Worship?

In the Collective Worship today, what did you think about?

The songs 😊 😐 ☹️

The message 😊 😐 ☹️

The prayers 😊 😐 ☹️

How could we improve our Collective Worship?
