



St. Giles CE Primary School
Achieving through adventure

Collective Worship Policy

Collective Worship Policy

St. Giles C of E (Aided) Primary School

Aims and Purpose

1. The aims and purpose of collective worship are:
 - a. To provide the opportunity for the children to worship God and promote Christian values;
 - b. To provide opportunities for children to reflect on the purpose and meaning of life;
 - c. To enable children to consider spiritual and moral issues;
 - d. To enable children to explore their own beliefs;
 - e. To encourage participation and response;
 - f. To develop the children in a sense of community spirit;
 - g. To promote a common ethos, with shared values and to reinforce positive attitudes.
 - h. To provide opportunities for calm reflection.

2. Collective Worship
 - a. We understand that collective worship is a special act or occasion whose purpose is to show respect for God. Collective worship involves all members of the school community to participate in daily and for special occasions.
 - b. In accordance with the 1988 Education Reform Act, which states that worship should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character', we normally base our Collective Worship on the teaching of Christ and the traditions of the Christian church. However we conduct our Collective Worship in a manner which is sensitive to the beliefs and values of all members of the school community.
 - c. While the majority of our acts of worship are Christian, we also hold acts of Collective Worship that reflect other religious communities that are present in the school and wider community.

3. Organisation of Collective Worship
 - a. We hold a daily act of collective worship in our school which forms the basis of daily Collective Worship. We include songs, prayers, stories, readings from sacred writing and reflections.
 - b. We conduct Collective Worship in a dignified and respectful way. Children are made aware Collective Worship is a time of calm reflection. We regard it as a special time and expect children to behave in an appropriate manner. We ask them to be quiet and thoughtful, to listen carefully to teachings and to participate in songs and prayers. We create an appropriate atmosphere through the use of music, and where appropriate, candles and other artefacts as focal points.
 - c. The Headteacher, and other members of the teaching staff, usually conduct Collective Worship, supported by the ministry of the local Anglican church, MAST (Matlock Area Schools Team) and Open the Book.
 - d. The themes of our Collective Worship are taken from the traditions of the Christian faith, as well as reflecting issues which encourage the children to become thoughtful, active citizens, such as environmental and Fair Trade issues. Themes are planned in advance by the RE Co-ordinator and Headteacher using the Values For Life Materials. Children are given opportunities to select the value that will act as a focus for the term. The themes permeate other curriculum areas in the classroom. Further opportunities for children to experience awe, wonder and matters of faith are given in other curriculum areas, e.g. Literacy, RE, Art, Science, PSHCE, history and music.
 - e. Our Collective Worship reflects the achievements and learning of the children. We encourage children to reflect on their week through Celebration Worship, held weekly. Celebration Worship offers the children opportunities to share achievements both in and out of school. They play an important part of

promoting the ethos of the school, which is that all children are valued and their achievements recognised.

- f. Parents and the wider family are invited to attend special Collective Worship such as Harvest, Christingle, Easter and the Leavers Service.
- g. Governors are welcomed at all Collective Worship.

4. Right of Withdrawal

- a. We expect all children to attend Collective Worship; however any parent has the right to request permission for their child/ren to be excused from attending acts of religious worship and the school will arrange alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child concerned. Parents are not required to explain or give reasons for withdrawal. This complies with the 1944 Education Act and was restated in the 1988 Education Act.
- b. The Headteacher keeps records of all those children who are withdrawn from collective worship.

5. Monitoring and Review

- a. Monitoring occurs informally through staff discussion with valued feedback welcomed from parents, Governors. It is the role of the RE co-ordinator and Governor responsible for Religious Education and Collective Worship, to monitor the policy and practice of collective worship.
- b. Monitoring of Collective Worship will take place three times a year by the RE Governor and a report about what is observed given to the main Governing Body.
- c. Reviews will take place in line with any changes to the Diocesan Syllabus for Religious Education or recommendations from Derby Diocese or the Department for Education. This is reported back to the Head teacher and Governors.

Date: 14th October 2021

Approved by Governors:

Review: Annually