

# Greens Norton C. of E. Primary School



## Collective Worship Policy

Approved by

Richard Jones  
Chair of Governors

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Headteacher

## Collective Worship Policy

### Introduction

At Greens Norton C of E Primary School our desire is to develop quality acts of worship within the spirit and the letter of the 1988 Education Reform Act, the Northamptonshire document, 'School Assembly and Worship', and in accordance with the principles and practice of the Church of England as laid down in the Trust Deed.

We believe that worship plays an essential part in the life of our school since it contributes to:

- The spiritual, social, moral and cultural development of the child
- Other subjects of the curriculum such as Music, English, Drama and RE
- The ethos of the school

### The Legal Context

Church schools must fulfil three main legal requirements for collective worship:

- Provide an act of worship for all pupils every day
- Ensure that collective worship is in accordance with the trust deed of the school
- Include a statement in the school prospectus that makes it clear that parents may withdraw their children from all or any part of collective worship

There may be a single act of worship for all pupils or separate acts of worship for pupils in different age groups or in different school groups.

Worship may take place at any time during the school day.

Most acts of worship within a school term must be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian nature.

Pupils (via parents) and teachers have the right to withdraw from collective worship.

Arrangements for collective worship should take account of and be applicable to pupils' ages and aptitudes and the circumstances relating to family background.

### **What is Worship?**

At Greens Norton Primary School we believe that worship is:

- A response to things of worth
- A recognition of and response to the spiritual dimensions of human experience
- A celebration of love for God by believers
- An expression of praise and gratitude, of awe and wonder, and of love and compassion
- An invitation to participate or observe

Worship can be achieved through a variety of media including music and hymns, words and scriptures, ritual, movement and drama, and stillness and reflection.

### **Aims**

Through the acts of worship we aim to:

- Strengthen the community spirit of the school
- Promote the spiritual, moral, cultural and mental development of the child
- Prepare for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of life
- Share emotions such as love, joy, hope, friendship, fear tolerance, understanding, forgiveness and reverence
- Give time to celebrate and give thanks for the beauty of life and living
- To appreciate that people differ and should be approached in a spirit of openness
- Allow time to reflect on success and failure and to encourage expressions of determination to always do one's best
- Create an atmosphere congenial to silent reflection, inner response and active participation
- Introduce children to the value of the Bible
- Give children practical experience of prayer
- Promote the understanding of the nature of God

- Introduce the children to the discipline of the Anglican liturgy in the broadest sense
- Demonstrate the Christian belief that God cares about us and the world

Acts of worship organised in our school will be mainly of a broadly Christian nature, as defined within this policy, reflecting the traditions of Christian belief and in accordance with the principles and practice of the Church of England.

The governors in consultation with the Headteacher are responsible for the collective act of worship within our school.

Collective worship takes place on every school day, but the time of day varies, as does its organisation. Collective worship may be taken as a whole school, in key stages or in individual classes.

We use a variety of themes for our worship. Each week commences with an act of worship for the whole school which sets out the theme for that week and subsequent worship will be linked by this common theme. A record of our worship is maintained in our 'Worship File'.

We welcome visitors to participate in organising acts of worship. Reverend Knight visits school on a regular basis throughout the year to conduct the Act of Worship and the children visit St Bartholomew's church for a service each term. The local Methodist minister is another regular visitor to our assemblies. From time to time, we welcome speakers from other denominations, charities and organisations.

Acts of worship may also take place in other places both indoors and outdoors from time to time.

### **What is broadly Christian?**

Acts of worship must be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian nature. Our understanding of 'Broadly Christian' is that through our acts of worship children should come to a greater understanding of those principles, values and characteristics displayed by Jesus throughout his life, in his ministry and teaching and by His own example. These will include:

- compassion
- faith
- trust
- conviction
- mercy
- individual and corporate responsibility
- self-discipline
- co-operation
- integrity
- self-sacrifice
- forgiveness
- humility
- self knowledge
- tolerance
- perseverance
- respect
- honesty
- concern
- understanding

### **RE Assembly and Worship**

We feel it is important that the relationship between RE, Assembly and Worship is understood by teachers and pupils.

They are distinctive activities which all contribute to a broad and balanced curriculum, they should endorse one another, and are all intentional learning activities within the curriculum and therefore important in the planning process. When planning these activities teachers take a range of learning styles into account to create opportunities that are accessible by all children.

**RE** is about developing knowledge and understanding, concepts, skills and attitudes in order to make decisions about fundamental questions. It involves both learning about religion and learning from religion. We believe that a classroom context is more appropriate for effective RE to take place.

**Assembly** is an occasion when pupils are gathered together in a larger group, usually with some formality. One of its many purposes is to

strengthen the sense of the school as a community with shared ethos, values and aims.

**Worship** can take place within an assembly and can be seen as one element or dimension. But an act of worship is far more than just a coming together of the school; it should fulfil the definition of worship as described in this policy. An assembly does not have to include an act of worship nor does an act of worship have to take place in an assembly.

Assembly provides the situation for exploring ritual and ceremonial aspects of worship and opportunities for starting points and end points involving all areas of the curriculum. Themes that are introduced in an act of worship may be further developed in RE, lessons or in other areas of the curriculum, and so help the child to interpret the experience of school worship.

### **The contribution of worship to spiritual, social, moral and cultural development**

The OFSTED Framework for Inspection describes these four areas as follows:

**Spiritual Development** relates to that aspect of inner life through which pupils acquire insights into their personal existence which are of enduring worth.

**Social Development** refers to pupils' progressive acquisition of the competences and qualities needed to play a full part in society. It is concerned with the skills and personal qualities for individuals to live and function effectively in society.

**Moral Development** refers to pupils' knowledge, understanding, intentions, attitudes and behaviour in relation to what is right or wrong.

**Cultural Development** refers to pupils' increasing understanding and command of those beliefs, values, customs, knowledge and skills which, taken together, form the basis of identity and cohesion in societies and groups.

We believe that the whole school ethos and programme of learning contributes to this development.

Through our acts of worship a very significant contribution can be made to the development of these areas for all our children for the reasons stated earlier in this document. Reasons such as that worship provides opportunities for the children to:

- gain a sense of self-knowledge, vision or inspiration; a sense of awe and wonder
- appreciate the values and attitudes upheld by the community
- be encouraged to keep/maintain/develop a quest for truth and meaning
- observe and encounter varieties of expressions of belief and commitment

Further clarification of our understanding of Spiritual, Social, Moral and Cultural Development is contained in a separate policy statement.

**Date of ratification:**

**Date of next review:**

**Greens Norton C of E Primary School****Collective Worship**

Day	Grouping	Venue	Time	Style	Leader
Monday	Whole School	Hall	10.10	Main act of worship setting the theme for the week	Headteacher
Tuesday	Infant	Hall	10.10	Various forms of worship following theme	Class teacher
	Junior		9.10		
Wednesday	Yr 1 – Yr 6	Hall	9.10	Song Worship	Headteacher
	Yr Reception	Classroom		Story Worship	Class Teacher
Thursday	Infant	Hall	9.10	Various forms of worship following theme	Headteacher
	Juniors	Hall	10.10		Deputy Head
Friday	Whole School	Hall	9.10	Class Act of Worship or sharing assembly or various forms of worship following theme	Each class once per year. Deputy Head/Class Teacher