



Collective Worship Policy 2024

Great Harwood St. John's CE Primary

"Where everyone shines with God's love"

based on "Let your light shine" Mathew 5:16

Collective Worship Policy

We at St John's CE Primary School are committed to meeting the needs of our pupils and ensuring that they make progress. In line with our mission statement, we aim to:

Build a better place, where:

Everyone is welcome;

No one is ever lonely;

We respect and trust each other;

There is always someone to ask for help;

People help us to be the best we can.

Great Harwood St John's CE Primary School statement of intent

'Where everyone shines with God's love.'

As a Church of England school, our curriculum has Christian values at its heart. It is our intent at Great Harwood St John's that ALL learners leave our school with a lifelong love of learning and they know that they are loved and treasured as individuals. To enable them to do this our curriculum has been carefully designed around our children, celebrating differences and developing the uniqueness of each child. We recognise children's starting points and quickly set about developing their phonics, early reading and maths skills through first hand experiences. Throughout their journey with us at St John's, we shower the children with enrichment opportunities to broaden their horizons and enhance their curiosity about their local community and the world around them. Staff work collaboratively, utilising each other's expertise to ensure a clear, coherent, well-balanced curriculum made bespoke to us. Ultimately, the day to day decisions of the school are to ensure that the whole child's needs are met whether this is academic or social and emotional.

Collective Worship at Great Harwood St John's Church of England School is of high quality, strongly reflects the school's distinctive Christian character and permeates throughout the whole life of the school.

Collective Worship Mission Statement

All staff at Great Harwood St John's Church of England School are committed to offering high quality collective worship. They all recognise that the daily acts of worship are central to fostering a sense of community and to expressing the school's distinctive Christian vision.

We therefore continually strive for collective worship to be inclusive, invitational and inspiring and ensure that collective worship underpins our Christian vision and values.

Taken from the Church of England guidance document:

In Church of England schools, collective worship is seen as more than a daily 'awe and wonder' moment. It is the unique heartbeat of the school and is offered as part of a wider opportunity for pupils and adults to encounter faith by engaging in conversations about God, both as individuals and together.

Responsibility

At Great Harwood St John's Church of England School, the management of collective worship is a distinctive role of the governors and headteacher. Collective worship is in accordance with the Trust Deed and in accordance with the rites, practices and doctrines of the Church of England. The Governing Body as a whole is responsible for determining the nature of collective worship provided in its school. At Great Harwood St John's Church of England School, we have a varied range of approaches to worship whilst we remain true to our Trust Deeds and as well as drawing on our denominational heritage, we also occasionally expect to draw on the rich tapestry of practice in the world-wide Christian Church.

Although collective worship and RE naturally complement each other and enrich one another they should be managed separately and collective worship does not form any part of the time allocation for RE. It is also important to highlight that though worship is not designated as a curriculum time under current DfE regulations, it is a major aspect of the whole curriculum provided by the school.

Worship is an 'open activity'. We cannot and do not force children to worship, but we attempt to bring children to the 'threshold' of worship and provide a setting in which they may choose to worship. We want them to be free to respond or not to respond and to be able to accept the invitation to worship if they so choose.

Content

Great Harwood St John's Church of England School collective worship uses God's Big Story Worship from the Diocese as well as distinctively Christian Values as content for our Collective

Worship. Worship is planned and delivered in accordance with the Church calendar and centres around our Christian values. These are explored on a 2-year rolling programme cycle:

Year A – generosity, compassion, courage, forgiveness, friendship, respect

Year B – thankfulness, trust, perseverance, justice, service, truthfulness

The varied range of approaches used to worship include - stories, both read and video, readings, drama, music, poetry, art, reflective silence and prayer. Whichever approach is used it is important to introduce children to the key beliefs and aspects of the multicultural Christian faith and for them to explore these:

- The nature of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
- The nature of human beings as children of God, part of his creation and forever forgiving.
- Jesus as the Son of God who, through his life, death and resurrection, broke the power of evil and restored humanity's relationship with God.
- The central values of forgiveness, selfless love, redemption, goodness, compassion and charity.
- The importance of prayer.
- The central symbols of Christianity.
- The cycle of the Church year.

Children are welcome to become part of the "Shining Lights" collective worship team and, if part of this, are invited to plan, deliver and evaluate worship alongside the collective worship coordinator and teachers.

Organisation

Acts of worship will be based upon chosen themes stated above. These provide the children with a varied content which we feel our children need together with the freedom to express our Christian belief. Special Saints days and the Church Calendar will also be observed within the programme. The approximate length of collective worship will last between 15-20 minutes. We aim to create a worshipful atmosphere by playing music on entry and exit and sustain this atmosphere by lighting a candle while the school experience a few seconds of creative silence. Collective worship will also take place around the use of Christian symbols (e.g. cross, fish, dove, etc), Christian school values, liturgical responses, props, thinking and questioning, etc.

It is expected that every class teacher will lead various whole school acts of collective worship each term. KS2 classes will attend St Bartholomew's & St John's Church for a Communion Service and staff, parents and children also attend special services held at St Bartholomew's & St John's Church on special Sundays over the year, when possible.

Each class will lead the school in a special class assembly over the year where they celebrate and show the work they have been doing on a particular theme (Mother's Day, Remembrance Day,

Easter, Harvest etc), to which parents and carers are welcome to attend. A family worship will also take place each Friday, in which awards are given for children who are "Shining Stars" and "Shining lights", which is linked to our school Christian vision – "Where everyone shines with God's love". Parents and carers are invited to attend each week.

Our weekly worship pattern is as follows:

Main Building

Monday – Miss Parker whole school worship on the Big Story

Tuesday – Prayer and Praise – songs and prayers

Wednesday – Class worship, using teachers own resources or the Worship Together video resources from Blackburn Diocese Board of Education

Thursday – Year 2 – Year 6 worship led by Mrs Mills and the Shining Lights Collective Worship Team or Rev. Graham Birch.

Friday – Whole school family worship.

Nuttall Site

Monday – Miss Parker whole school on the Big Story

Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday – EYFS & Year 1 worship led by class teachers on an alternate basis

Friday – Whole school family worship

The aims of collective worship at Great Harwood St John's Church of England School are:

- To *explore* and question a relationship with God, explore and question the teachings of the Bible, prayer and the school Christian Values. *Explore* what and how people worship and what it means to have faith.
- To *encounter* multicultural Christianity in action, the nature of God as revealed in Jesus, creative silence, the awe and wonder of God's creation and a relationship with God.
- To *experience* the joy and celebration of God's love and to encourage and develop children in leading/partaking in worship.

Consultation, Management, Recording and Review

It is the role of collective worship leader (Miss Parker) in managing collective worship. Each half term Miss Parker will give staff a time table showing a plan of collective worship sessions, the themes they will be covering and who will be leading them e.g. clergy, senior staff, staff, visitors and pupils. A record of acts of worship will be kept and there is provision for monitoring and evaluating the quality and content of collective worship by teachers and pupils. This policy will be reviewed each year and altered accordingly.

Resources

Resources can be found in a collective worship box in the hall in the main building and in the classrooms at Nuttall.

Withdrawal

Children – parents do have a legal right to withdraw their children from collective worship in our school. However, as this is in accordance with our Church of England Foundation and this in turn is reflected in our curriculum and whole life of the school community, removal from collective worship will not insulate pupils from the religious life of the school.

Staff – if staff wish to be excused from attending collective worship on the grounds of their religious opinion or practice they should inform governors, in writing, as to their reasons.

Complaints:

It is hoped that any complaint will be resolved informally by the head teacher, in consultation with the Governors and possibly advice from the Diocese. However, if the complaint is not satisfactorily resolved, then formal procedures come in to play and the matter will be adjudicated by a specially constituted sub-committee of the Diocesan Board of Education acting on behalf of the Bishop of the Diocese.

Review

This policy will be reviewed by the Religious Education/Collective Worship leader on an annual basis if required.

This policy was reviewed, updated and agreed by Staff and Governors in May 2024.