



# Godley Community Primary Academy

## Collective Worship Policy

Updated: September 2025

### 1. Introduction

This policy reflects statutory requirements for Collective Worship in schools, informed by guidance from the Department for Education (DfE), Tameside Local Authority, and SACRE (Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education). It aligns with the ethos and aims of Godley Community Primary Academy and is designed to be inclusive and respectful of the diverse beliefs and backgrounds of all pupils and staff.

### 2. Legal and Ofsted Compliance

In accordance with the Education Reform Act 1988 and DfE Circular 1/94, all maintained schools must provide a daily act of Collective Worship for all registered pupils. This worship must be:

- Wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character, unless the school has obtained a determination from SACRE to reflect the faith background of its pupils.
- Inclusive and respectful, not distinctive of any particular Christian denomination.
- Delivered in a way that promotes pupils' spiritual, moral, social, and cultural (SMSC) development, which is a key focus of Ofsted inspections.

Ofsted expects schools to demonstrate how Collective Worship contributes to:

- Promoting British Values: democracy, individual liberty, the rule of law, mutual respect, and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs.
- Supporting pupils' personal development and preparing them for life in modern Britain.

Parents have the legal right to withdraw their child from Collective Worship, and teachers also have the right to withdraw.

### 3. Definition of Collective Worship

Collective Worship is a time when the school community gathers to reflect on shared values, themes, and experiences. It provides meaningful opportunities for pupils to engage in spiritual, moral, social, and cultural development through reflection, celebration, and exploration.

### 4. Aims of Collective Worship

Collective Worship at Godley aims to:

- Foster a sense of community and belonging.
- Celebrate achievements, milestones, and cultural events.
- Encourage reflection on moral and spiritual values.
- Promote respect and understanding of different beliefs and worldviews.
- Support pupils in developing their personal beliefs and values.

## **5. Impact on Pupils**

Through Collective Worship, pupils are encouraged to:

- Reflect on what is meaningful and worthy of respect.
- Explore spiritual and moral questions.
- Develop their own sense of identity and values.
- Engage positively with others and the wider world.
- Respond thoughtfully through reflection, discussion, or prayer.

## **6. Curriculum Links**

While Collective Worship is distinct from curriculum time, it may complement and enrich classroom learning. Themes may align with curriculum topics, enhancing pupils' understanding from different perspectives and supporting cross-curricular development.

## **7. Promoting SMSC Development**

Collective Worship supports pupils':

- Spiritual development through reflection and exploration of beliefs.
- Moral development by considering ethical issues and values.
- Social development through shared experiences and community building.
- Cultural development by celebrating diversity and learning about different traditions.

## **8. Leadership and Management**

The Principal and Vice Principal serve as Worship Co-ordinators, overseeing the planning, delivery, and evaluation of Collective Worship. All staff members and invited visitors contribute to leading worship throughout the year.

## **9. Organisation and Format**

Collective Worship is delivered in various formats:

- Whole-school assemblies in the hall.
- Class-based sessions.

Sessions typically last 15–20 minutes, with flexibility to adapt based on context and content.

## **10. Planning and Themes**

Worship is planned termly, with themes that reflect:

- School values and ethos.
- National and global events.
- Religious and cultural festivals.
- Topical issues and pupil interests.

Planning remains flexible to accommodate spontaneous or current events. Visitors, including faith leaders, are welcomed and supported to ensure their contributions are inclusive and educational.

### **11. Delivery and Methods**

A range of teaching and learning styles are used, including:

- Storytelling, music, drama, and visual media.
- Interactive discussions and pupil-led reflections.
- Use of artefacts, literature, and real-life examples.

The approach is tailored to the age, background, and needs of pupils, ensuring accessibility and engagement.

### **12. Reflection and Response**

Pupils are given space to respond in ways that are meaningful to them, including:

- Silent reflection.
- Thoughtful discussion.
- Prayer or personal contemplation.

Announcements, if included, are clearly separated from the worship element and are positive in nature.

### **13. Right of Withdrawal**

Parents have the legal right to withdraw their child from Collective Worship. We encourage open dialogue with the Principal to understand concerns and explore suitable arrangements.