



Collective Worship Policy

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Introduction

The Collective Worship at Gorse Hill Primary School and Nursery pays due regard to statutory requirements, and has taken account of the guidance offered by the Local Authority through the new Swindon Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education (SACRE). In line with the Education Act 1996 (Schedule 31) teaching 'shall reflect the fact that the religious traditions in Great Britain are in the main Christian, while taking account of the teaching and practices of the other principal religions represented in Great Britain.'

At Gorse Hill School, we believe in the unlimited potential of every child - that **every child can**. This ethos is underpinned by our school's CARE Values, which encourage our pupils to care for themselves, others and their community.

C – We show **courage** when faced with a challenge;

A – We show **appreciation** for the rights, faiths and beliefs of others;

R – We **respect** and take **responsibility** for ourselves, each other and our environment;

E – We aim for **excellence** through having high expectations.

In addition to our CARE Values, at Gorse Hill Primary School and Nursery, we also actively promote British values through our school vision, ethos, agreed rules, curriculum and teaching. As such, we promote tolerance of, and respect for, people of all faiths (or those with no faith), cultures and lifestyles. We prepare children and young people positively for life in modern Britain by supporting them through our words, actions, and influence, not just within school, but also within the wider community. Therefore, the Collective Worship Policy of Gorse Hill Primary School and Nursery is consistent with the philosophy and aims of the school as expressed in the prospectus. Assemblies are conducted in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faiths and beliefs of all members of the school.

At Gorse Hill Primary School and Nursery, we believe that Collective Worship should aim to:

- Give expression to, reaffirm and practice the values of the school community and promote British values of respect for the law, democracy, equality and tolerance of different faiths and religious and other beliefs.
- Strengthen and support the school community and individual members.
- Provide an experience that promotes the social, moral, spiritual and cultural development of pupils

- Provide an opportunity for personal and shared reflection and response to fundamental questions of life
- Be based on a broadly Christian nature whilst also reflecting other faiths
- Celebrate and give thanks for achievements within the school, local and international community and occasions of significance, including festivals
- Foster a respect for self and engender a concern for the needs of others.

Collective Worship

Collective Worship can be related to the day-to-day life, aspirations and concerns of the pupils and the school, and must preserve the integrity of all its members. They can come together to affirm and celebrate experiences of worth to them all. It offers all pupils an opportunity to worship through engaging in relevant, meaningful experiences and provides opportunities for the pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

As an Academy school the funding agreement states that each pupil must take part in a daily act of collective worship / reflection unless their parents have withdrawn them. The collective worship / reflection must be mainly of a broadly Christian character but can reflect the religious backgrounds represented in the community. The following principles apply:

Aims for the school:

- All pupils take part in a daily act of collective worship or reflection.
- Share common values and aims
- Celebrate achievement and special times
- Explore together the world in which we live
- Develop a community spirit

For the pupils, opportunities to:

- Take part in Collective Worship which may be held at any time during the school day, either on or off the school premises.
- Consider the whole person
- Explore own beliefs
- Develop their own spirituality
- Reinforce common ethos and values
- Reinforce positive attitudes
- Develop a sense of community spirit
- Encourage participation and response
- Reflect on what is considered worthy

The Organisation of Collective Worship

The Head teacher or other members of staff normally lead assembly, but sometimes local clergy or other representatives of local religious groups are invited into the school.

- We conduct assemblies in a dignified and respectful way. Children are expected to behave in an appropriate way as this time is a period of calm reflection
- We take themes of our assemblies that link to our school's CARE values and of the Christian and other faiths, and we often reflect the festivals and events of the religious calendars. At other times the school RE leader will set an assembly timetable based on the PSHE and RE curriculum to reinforce the values and topics being taught across the school.
- Each week, there is a 'Thought of the Week' to encourage reflection.
- We would like to welcome parents and Governors to attend our assemblies, however, we can only do this in phases due to space. It is valued because it promotes the community spirit of the school and is a practical demonstration of the way the home and the school work together to support the achievements of our children in all aspects of their lives. The school will set dates for parents to be invited at the beginning of each term.

Withdrawal

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from Collective Worship / reflection. This school expects that withdrawal will only be made following discussions with the head teacher followed by written confirmation of withdrawal. The school will make arrangements to supervise withdrawn children but no additional or set work will be followed during this time.

Teachers and head teachers wishing to withdraw from Collective Worship must apply in writing to the Chair of Governors giving a full explanation of the reason for withdrawal. The head teacher maintains statutory accountability even if the right to withdraw is granted by the governing body.