

# Collective Worship Policy



*Learn today, fly tomorrow*

Recommended by	C Cooke
Approval date	Nov 20
Review date	Nov 23

## Record of changes

Date of change	Changes made

## **Intent**

### **Reasons for Collective Worship at Gorse Covert Primary School**

Even though we are a non-denominational school, it is a legal requirement that all registered school age pupils take part in an act of worship each day. These acts of worship must be “wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian Character” for the majority of the time. They must also be “appropriate, having regard to the ages, aptitudes and family backgrounds of the pupils”.

The United Kingdom is a predominately Christian country and we believe it is important that children understand how Christianity has shaped the history and culture of our country. Christianity teaches children about our traditions, moral values, the importance of family, community and belonging, and the importance of helping those less fortunate. It is equally important to teach children about other religions to develop tolerance and respect and this is done through our Religious Education lessons. Whether children choose to believe in Christianity or not, Collective Worship is an opportunity to reflect on those beliefs, the world around us and humanity.

### **Definition of Collective Worship**

Collective Worship is a time when the whole school, or groups within the school meet together in order to consider and reflect on common concerns, issues and interests. 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. Collective Worship should include a time of quiet reflection or prayer, which is an opportunity for children to reflect in their own way.

### **Aims of Collective Worship**

#### **For the School:**

Collective Worship contributes significantly to the ethos of Gorse Covert Primary School and it is our aim that it is a time when the school community can:

- share common aims and values
- celebrate achievement and special times
- explore together the world in which we live
- develop a community spirit
- Reflect upon dimensions of human life – the wonderful, beautiful, joyful, heroic, humorous, tragic, sorrowful, solemn....;

#### **For the Pupils:**

We also intend that Collective Worship contributes to the development of the pupil as a ‘whole’ person by providing opportunities to:

- worship God
- reflect on that which is considered worthy
- consider spiritual and moral issues
- explore their own beliefs
- develop their own spirituality
- reflect on the direction of their lives
- reinforce positive attitudes
- participate and respond

- reflect on what it means to be human
- consider the wonders and worries of the world
- deepen their sense of wonder about the world around them
- acknowledge diversity

## **Implementation**

### **The Organisation of Collective Worship**

Collective Worship is organised to provide a variety of groupings and will take place in the school hall, or one of the multi-purpose rooms, or the classroom. Acts of worship will usually last for approximately 15 minutes, although it is recognised that this time will be shortened or lengthened when it is appropriate. There is a four yearly rotation of Collective worship themes. The themes stem from a whole school assembly which may be Christian in nature or be related to other world religions.

### **Prayer**

We feel that prayer is a good way of enabling children to focus their thoughts and express gratitude and appreciation. Nevertheless, pupils are not required to say or affirm prayers in which they do not believe and can be just a moment of silent reflection. We have a school prayer which reflects our school values and motto. We teach our children to be able to recite this prayer so that they can say it at appropriate times if they wish, during whole school collective worship.

### **Withdrawal**

Parents/Carers have the right to withdraw their child from any act or acts of Collective Worship. Those wishing to make such a request are encouraged to discuss with the head teacher: (a) any particular concerns they may have and (b) practical arrangements for the withdrawal.

## **Impact**

### **The Management of Collective Worship**

Governors and the Headteacher will ensure that the school complies with the law to provide opportunities for daily acts of worship.

The Lifestyle Team will oversee Collective Worship. The role of the team will be to plan, monitor and evaluate acts of Collective Worship.