

# Great Bowden Academy

A Church of England Primary School



*Inspire Believe Learn Achieve*

## **Policy for Collective Worship**

**Spring 2019- 2022**

## **Collective Worship Policy**

At Great Bowden Academy Collective Worship is viewed as an integral and important part of school life. This policy supports and reinforces the vision of our school, valuing all children equally.

“At Great Bowden Church of England Academy, our vision is for each member of our school family to experience life in all its fullness both now and in the future. We are an inclusive welcoming community valuing everyone for who they are and enabling all to flourish.” I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.”( John 10.10)  
““All humankind is made in the image of God ” (Genesis 1: 26-27)

The policy is underpinned by the values of the school:

Wisdom, thankfulness, peace, service, perseverance and koinonia

The ethos of the school, encompassing all that we stand for, is reflected in and expressed through Collective Worship; it derives from the Anglican Christian tradition.

Collective Worship, within a Christian context, plays an important part in the life of our school. It is an oasis in the school day when children meet together with members of staff, in a calm and peaceful atmosphere and where all present are given the opportunity to reflect and participate.

## **Definitions**

**Worship** can be defined as paying homage to (revering) that which is of worth (“Worth-ship.”) Religious Worship is the acknowledgement of ‘worth’ which is attributable to a supreme being. Worth can also be registered in other people and in values and attitudes.

**School Assembly** is a gathering of the school community; it is often used to celebrate and focus on the life and values of the community itself.

**Corporate Worship** is a gathering of a body (‘corpus’) of believers and pre-supposes a particular religious commitment.

**Collective Worship** is a gathering of a ‘collection’ of people of diverse, religious, agnostic and non-religious backgrounds and does not pre-suppose any particular religious commitment. In Collective Worship children and adults will be responding to the worship on offer in different ways and at different levels; some will be passive observers, learning about worship but not participating in it; some will be “at the threshold”, interested in the process and participating in it but not full believers; for others the act of Collective Worship may be a time of real worship of God.

**It is the task of Collective Worship to provide a setting in which the integrity of those present is not compromised but in which everyone finds something positive for themselves.**

### **Legal Rationale**

- Collective Worship is in accordance with the Trust Deed of the school. This requires worship to be consistent with the principles and practices of the Church of England and is, therefore, wholly Christian in character.
- The 1988 Education Reform Act states that Collective Worship should be part of a broad and balanced curriculum which promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils and society.
- All schools – must provide a daily act of Collective Worship for all registered pupils.
- Parents have the right to withdraw their child/children from the act of worship on religious grounds either partially or wholly. Any parents wishing to do so should contact the Executive Headteacher. Teachers also have the right to withdraw from leading and taking part in worship.

### **The Aims of Collective Worship at Great Bowden Academy**

Through Collective Worship we aim:

- To help children discover their place in the world
- To highlight and nurture the spiritual dimension through experiencing worship
- To provide children with a vocabulary of worship and an experience of a wide variety of worship forms, including symbols and imagery
- To provide an opportunity to celebrate major, and some minor, Christian festivals
- To heighten awareness of the ultimate questions of life and to provide the opportunity to reflect upon these
- To support the search for meaning
- To enable children to appreciate their worth and value to God, and to the community, and to respect the integrity of each individual as a child of God
- To enable pupils to make effective use of silence in opportunities for reflection, contemplation, meditation and prayer
- To celebrate gifts, talents and achievements
- To establish, explore and reinforce the common Christian values of the school community, wisdom, thankfulness, peace, service, perseverance and koinonia
- To foster a feeling of community and belonging in the school through a sharing of experience and feelings
- To develop personal relationships and to encourage social development
- To provide an opportunity to empathise with the needs of others.

- To provide an opportunity for children to become acquainted with the faith of the people from the local and wider community, particularly the local church
- To encourage stewardship, respect and care for God's creation by a positive attitude to both local and global environmental issues
- To foster feelings such as awe, wonder, thankfulness, mystery and joy
- To give memorable and enjoyable experiences
- To provide an opportunity to bring before God in prayer, personal needs and those of others
- To share with participants some of the central teachings of the Christian faith at an appropriate level, and to give them the encouragement to explore their own beliefs and understanding of God
- To encounter, by invitation the person of Jesus Christ through prayer and scripture

### **Anglican Traditions**

As a Church Of England Primary School Great Bowden is aware of its Anglican Foundation The following shared Christian elements are features of our Collective Worship provision

- Using the Bible, either as a source book, or as an inspiration for themes and stories
- Observing the cycle of the Church's Year- Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, Pentecost, Saints Days
- Learning and saying traditional prayers from a number of sources, in particular the Lord's Prayer and the Grace and simple responses
- Singing a wide variety of hymns, from traditional and modern
- Using Christian symbols in worship and reflecting on their meaning e.g. cross, crucifix, light, bread and wine, colours of the church year
- The use of readings, poetry, prayer, meditation, silence and reflection
- Using Psalms with simple responses
- Prayers including thanksgiving, intercession and penitence

We also use more distinctively Anglican traditions when appropriate through

- Using prayers from common worship
- Using Anglican sentences and responses
- Using the Collect of the day as a focus for worship
- Encouraging links with the worship of the local parish church

### **Responsibilities**

#### **The role of the Governing Body**

- Governors should be aware of their legal responsibilities in regard to Collective Worship, and take account of the policy and guidelines of the diocese

- Governors must take account of the legal requirements, any school Trust Deed and guidelines issued by the Diocese
- Governors must be actively involved and familiar with all documentation regarding Collective Worship issued on their behalf and be actively involved in the process of Collective Worship development within the school
- Governors should ensure that Collective Worship is appropriately reviewed as part of the school improvement plan and be actively involved in the review process
- Governors should be aware of the requirement under Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools(SIAMS) for the inspection of Collective Worship
- It is a statutory requirement that a school prospectus includes details of Collective Worship provided at the school. These details should inform parents of the parental right to withdraw their child from Collective Worship. The arrangements and provision made for those children withdrawn from worship should be clearly stated
- Offering an opportunity to discuss the form of worship provided with parents

### **The role of the Executive Headteacher / Head of School**

- Head Teachers should be aware of their legal responsibilities with regard to Collective Worship and take account of the policy and guidelines of the Diocese
- Head Teachers should ensure that governors and staff are well informed and receive training in order to implement the Diocesan policy on Collective Worship
- Head Teachers may designate the responsibility for co-ordinating Collective Worship to a member or members of staff (a team should include pupils, staff, governors, clergy, parents)

### **The role of the Collective Worship Co-ordinator**

At Great Bowden Academy the Collective Worship coordinator works alongside other staff including the Exec Head, Worship team and clergy to coordinate Collective Worship.

- assisting the governors and Head Teacher to carry out their legal responsibilities with regard to Collective Worship
- reporting to the Head Teacher and governors on matters of review and development
- communicating with members of the school community regarding the significance and content of collective acts of worship
- ensuring that there is a development plan for Collective Worship which is included in the school Improvement Plan and the National Society Toolkit

- developing and maintaining effective procedures for planning, recording, monitoring, evaluating and reviewing collective acts of worship
- being responsive to the needs and views of members of the school community, those of the Christian faith and those of other/no faith
- developing and utilising the resources available for Collective Worship including

**Books**

**Posters**

**Websites**

**Visual aids/artefacts**

**Music**

**Visiting speakers**

**Worship leaders**

**Use of the Parish Church**

**Liaising with local Church representatives**

### **Leading Collective Worship**

Collective Worship takes place daily in the school hall, except on Thursdays , when it takes place in classrooms.

<b>Day</b>	<b>Who</b>	<b>Led by</b>	<b>Content</b>
Monday	Whole School	Team from the local church	Open the book
Tuesday	Whole School	Exec Head	Diocesan weekly theme
Wednesday	Whole School	Teacher	Diocesan weekly theme
Thursday	Whole School	Class teachers	Open the box/Roots and Shoots based on Christian values
Friday	Whole School	Head of School	Celebrating Achievement- valuing everyone for who they are.

Staff members attend Collective Worship

The whole school worships in church on the last Monday of each month. Parents and members of the local community are invited to attend. The school community also attends church to celebrate other events in the Church calendar e.g. Harvest, Christmas, Easter.

Visitors and outside speakers are invited to lead our worship on a regular basis.

## **The Worship Team**

Children from across the age range make up the school's Worship Team. Members of the Worship team are responsible for planning and leading Worship on a regular basis and introduce and close worship on a daily basis. The team is supported by the Collective Worship Coordinator and local vicar who meet with them regularly. They lead daily prayers in their own classes. Members of the team volunteer for service or are nominated by staff, and roles are re-allocated on a half termly basis.

## **Elements of Worship**

There are times when worship is quiet, contemplative and serene and others when laughter, music and dance is the appropriate form of expression.

**Music** is played at the beginning and end of the assembly. One piece is selected each week appropriate to the theme. Pupils' attention is drawn to it each day and a simple explanation or description may be given..

## **Gathering**

The Worship team take the lead in the opening of Collective Worship. They use an Anglican liturgical response and set up the Worship table with the appropriate church colour and symbols to represent God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.

**Stories and talks-** are carefully chosen to fulfil the aims of Collective Worship. Stories of a religious or secular nature may be used. whilst personal anecdotes from pupils, teachers and visitors is effective in expressing that which is important in our own lives. Particular emphasis is laid upon helping children to understand themselves better, to develop empathy and to face up to moral issues.

**Songs** are chosen from a wide variety of traditional and modern hymns and choruses. One is chosen for the week's assemblies relative to the theme. Hymns and songs create the opportunity for children to express thoughts and feelings that are difficult to put into words.

**Prayer and reflection** are the most personal part of an act of worship. Collective Worship in school should provide opportunities for children to be taken to the threshold of prayer, and to cross it if they wish in a way that respects the integrity of all present. Participation in prayer can never be imposed but we stress the need for stillness, reflection and respect for others. Members of the school's Worship Team sometimes lead the prayer. The Lord's Prayer is said at least once weekly and

always on Fridays. Reflection and thinking time are given some direction by the leader in order to concentrate pupils' responses.

**Scripture** sentences may be quoted from the Bible and, where appropriate, from sacred books and writings of other world faiths. Longer passages may be used as readings.

**Presentation** sets the tone within the act of worship. In keeping with the reverent atmosphere, use is also made of visual aids, artefacts, drama, demonstration and video.

### **Resources**

- Staff, pupils, visiting speakers.
- Candle and stand.
- Selection of religious artifacts.
- Religious/informative websites.
- Selection of assembly topic books for teachers.
- Primary Assembly File.
- Selection of assembly song books.
- Piano/Instruments/Music/CDs with spiritual, classical, folk, ethnic.
- Overhead projector/digital projector and other IT equipment.

### **Monitoring and Evaluation**

The impact of Collective Worship on all members of our community is carried out by the Co-ordinator through:-

- observation
- feedback from pupils, staff, parents, governors, clergy and visitors including the use of questions from the Diocesan guidelines
- response of the school community
- completing the monitoring form from Diocesan guidelines

Policy Reviewed in Spring 2019  
Date of Next Review Spring 2022



