



**George Carey Church of England
Primary School**

Collective Worship Policy

George Carey CofE Primary School

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“To worship is to quicken the conscience by the holiness of God, to feed the mind with the truth of God, to purge the imagination by the beauty of God, to open the heart to the love of God and to devote the will to the purpose of God”.

William Temple (1881-1894)

A Christian school for all, at the heart of the local community, where everyone grows together in knowledge, understanding, friendship and love.

Mission Statement

Introduction

Our collective worship policy strengthens and supports the Christian identity of our school, reaffirms our values and celebrates the contribution that each child makes to our community. Worship will reflect the variety of traditions found in the Church of England, and will recognise and follow the Christian liturgical year. The daily Christian act of worship is central to our ethos and is supported by all staff and governors.

Aims

Collective worship at George Carey CofE School will support the school's Mission Statement, by providing opportunities for children and staff:

- to explore a relationship with God in Jesus Christ
- to reflect on values that are of a broadly Anglican Christian tradition, whilst recognising the validity and importance of other Christian denominations, religions and belief systems
- to consider spiritual and moral issues and, through reflection, raise awareness of the ultimate questions of life relating to matters of faith
- to reflect on their own beliefs
- to deepen and widen the experience of those of 'faith' and encourage those of 'little or no formal faith' so that they begin to feel for themselves something of what it means to worship
- to develop an enquiring mind and express and explore their own views openly and honestly
- to develop a community spirit, a common ethos and shared values
- to foster an awareness of the world around them and a sense of their place within it
- to develop a respect for and an understanding of different beliefs and faiths
- to develop a sense of sharing and belonging through different groups of children coming together

The marks of meaningful worship offered in school should include:

- The experience of God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit, as that which underpins our life as a school and sets the standards by which we live.
- The knowledge that we can know forgiveness and be reconciled.
- A recognition that we all, young and old, are children of God and that we belong to Him and to each other.

- A reflection on the experience of living in the light of biblical teaching and the tradition of the church.
- A deepening partnership between home, school and wider church.
- The sharing of common concerns, responsibilities and endeavours.

The Anglican Christian Tradition

The following may be described as shared Christian elements of collective worship:

- Using the Bible, either as a source of knowledge and inspiration for themes and stories
- Observing the cycle of the Church’s Year – Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, Pentecost, Saints Days
- Learning and saying prayers from a number of sources, in particular the Lord’s Prayer and the Grace
- Singing a wide variety of hymns and worship songs from traditional to contemporary
- Experiencing Christian symbols in worship and reflecting on their meaning eg cross, crucifix, bread and wine and candles
- The use of prayer, silence and reflection

Our definition of spirituality

The recognition that there is something more to life than the ordinary and acknowledging the capacity of pupils to reach beyond the everyday experiences of life. This would include supporting the development of the inner life of each pupil and individual in our school through: a search for meaning in something that seems incomprehensible; a sense of values which are shared by all regardless of differences; a sense of the transcendent, that which is beyond or above the range of normal human experience. In doing so, guide our searching for answers to some of life’s ultimate questions.

Through collective worship we hope to develop children’s spirituality through the opportunity to reflect on themes, values and stories from the bible, and provide a space for them to begin to relate themselves and their lives to the world around them.

Implementation

Collective worship is a legal requirement. Each school must provide a Christian act of collective worship for all pupils every day. This act of worship can take place at any time of the school day and in any regular school grouping e.g. whole school, key stage or class.

The school pattern of Collective Worship

The school year begins with a Staff and Governors’ Eucharist.

Weekly timetable:

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| Monday | KS2 Headteacher’s assembly (10.10am) KS1 Deputy Headteacher assembly (2.45pm) |
| Tuesday | KS1 Headteacher’s assembly (2.45pm) KS2 Deputy Headteacher assembly (10.10am) |
| Wednesday | Infant and Junior singing assembly 2.30pm and 2.45pm |
| Thursday | Prayers in class Class assemblies (Spring Term onwards) |
| Friday | Achievement assembly (9.05am) – SLT |

Each class will have prayers throughout the day including a reflective or class prayer at the end of each day.

Special Services & Assemblies:

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| Autumn | Harvest Assembly Advent Service Foundation and KS1 Nativities KS2 Lessons and Carols |
| Spring | Epiphany Service Class Assemblies Ash Wednesday Service Holy Week Activities & Easter Service |
| Summer | End of Year Service Ascension Day Assembly Leavers' Assembly |

Content and planning

The school has developed a programme of assembly themes, based upon the church's year and significant religious or spiritual matters and are underpinned by the school's core Christian values of love, unity, respect and peace. Each half term is based on one of eighteen Christian values (on a three year rolling programme) taken from 'Values for Life' produced by Jumping Fish. The themes and values are backed by appropriate resources and materials kept and catalogued for the purpose. See 'Themes and Values overview' sheet.

Settings for Worship

In more formal acts of worship the whole school community including parents, gather together with the cross, altar, pictures or artefacts (e.g. an icon) as a focus in the church or main hall. It will be appropriate for the children to sit together with adults around them.

At less formal times (eg. prayers at going-home time) children may be on the carpet or at their desks but care should be taken to mark that time as special, perhaps by closing eyes or focusing on a cross or other item in the classroom.

The children always enter and leave the place of worship quietly and music is played to set the required atmosphere.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Whole school collective worship is evaluated and reflected on by the person leading an act of worship. More formal observations and monitoring are undertaken throughout the term and discussed with the person involved to support reviewing and developing our collective worship programme. Children's views are gathered through individual, group and class discussions or from simple question and answer sheets with prompts to support their thinking.

Governors will support the school's self-evaluation of collective worship by engaging in learning walks with the SLT, sitting in on acts of worship and discussions with children about their experiences and thoughts.

Self-assessment and Inspection

School self-assessment will be completed on the SIAMS Toolkit by Headteacher and deputy in consultation with staff, governors, children and parents.
Worship is inspected under S48 of the Education Act.

Parental Withdrawal

Parents have the right to withdraw their child/children from acts of collective worship on grounds of conscience. However, as collective worship is central to our ethos so we would appreciate the opportunity to discuss this decision with parents.

Date of validation..... Signed.....
Chair of Governors

Date of review..... Signed.....
Chair of Governors