

GAINFORD C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL AND PRE-SCHOOL

Together we love, learn and flourish



Collective Worship Policy

Date Adopted by Governing Body	September 2021
Review Period	Annually
Next Review Date	September 2024

Daily collective worship is at the centre of school life and enables children to experience the diversity of Christian practice and tradition. High quality, effective, academic religious education allows pupils and adults alike to flourish.

Throughout all our school life our Christian vision and values promote social and cultural development through the practice of forgiveness and reconciliation. They encourage good mental health and enable children and adults, whatever their background or ability, to flourish and live well together.

The vision is used to ensure our policies, curriculum and extracurricular opportunities meet the academic and spiritual needs of all learners. We describe all our activities in terms of how the vision and values inspire our whole school community, children and adults, to engage in social action and to be courageous advocates for change in their local, national and global communities

Our Christian vision supports the character and moral development of all pupils and adults, giving them aspiration for themselves and hope for the communities of which they are a part. It fosters dignity and respect, enabling everyone to be the person God created them to be, to achieve the most they can, and to inspire hope for others in the local community and beyond.

Introduction

Collective Worship at Gainford CE Primary School and Preschool takes place daily in accordance with provisions of the School Standards and Framework Act, 1998.

The staff and governors of Gainford C.E. Primary see the main purpose of the school is that of providing a high standard of education, both academic and social, in a Christian context, ensuring that this provision is made available to all of its pupils. It is an important aim of the school to nurture a sense of personal worth for all its pupils through encouraging them to do their best in order to fulfil their individual potential; recognition of effort, attitude and commitment being as worthy of merit as high levels of achievement.

Aims

- To enable pupils to explore and respond to a variety of forms of worship, thus allowing those pupils with a religious commitment to deepen their experience of worship, and those without a religious commitment to begin to appreciate
 - To explore and share the belief of others
 - To enable pupils to approach the threshold of worship by fostering in them an attitude characterised by feelings such as humility, awe, wonder, appreciation, thankfulness, respect, reverence and elation.

- To allow children opportunities to experience and appreciate the use of symbolism and religious language to express feelings and belief.
- To enable pupils to consider spiritual and moral issues and the questions these raise in their lives and the lives of others.
- To enable pupils to make use of silence as a time for reflection, contemplation, meditation and, if appropriate, prayer.
- To encourage respect and care for God's creation.
- To acknowledge the things which have meaning, value and purpose for the pupils as individuals, as well as for the school and the wider community.
- To develop a sense of community within and beyond the school.
- To celebrate achievements, special occasions and special events in relation to

individual pupils within school, to the school as a whole, or to the wider community.

- To acknowledge, respect and celebrate difference and diversity.

Definition

Collective worship and assembly are not the same, although worship may be part of an assembly. Collective worship is defined as worship appropriate to a group of individuals possessing a range of beliefs, believers and non-believers.

What is Worship?

Worship is:

- the submission of all our nature to God;
- the awakening of our conscience by his holiness;
- the nourishment of our minds with his truth;
- the opening of our hearts by his love;
- the surrender of our will to his purpose.

What is collective worship?

Christian worship is an honouring of God. It acknowledges His transcendence and Holiness, His "worth" and "value"; it is a loving response to His nature as revealed in Jesus Christ. Worship stems from personal experience; it is a central characteristic of faith communities which are in relationship with God.

We can never make anyone worship because it is an attitude of the heart focused on God; in the school situation "the most" we can do is lead people to the threshold of worship by providing a setting where they may worship God if they so wish.

The school is a collection of people who come from a variety of backgrounds and who happen to be together primarily for the purpose of education, not for worship. The family backgrounds of pupils may be very different in terms of beliefs and adherence to religion, from the atheist, secular humanist to a devout background of a faith, either Christian or another world religion. 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.**

Collective worship at Gainford CE Primary will take place daily. Styles may vary from day to day though it is intended that the various forms will together promote the spiritual and moral development of pupils.

The daily act of collective worship will be "wholly of a broadly Christian character," Whilst acknowledging the desirability to show respect and regard for other religions. As an Anglican Foundation, collective worship at Gainford C.E. Primary School has a Christian orientation.

Expectations of pupils:

During Collective Worship pupils will be given opportunities for:

- individual response and reflection
- listening and thinking about the world, themselves and others;
- introducing pupils to the use of symbolism and religious language to express
- shaping and leading worship

Children as leaders of worship - Flippin Praise resources are used by children to help them to shape worship for others in school.

- sharing in experiences of e.g. sadness, excitement, joy, thankfulness, togetherness and challenge;
- silence, stillness, meditation, contemplation and if appropriate prayer;
- celebration of the shared values in the school community

Anglican Tradition

As a Church of England Primary School, we include the following Christian elements of collective worship:

- 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 simple responses
- Singing a wide variety of hymns, from traditional to modern
- Experiencing Christian symbols in worship and reflecting on their meaning e.g. cross, crucifix, bread and wine, colours of the church year
- The use of readings, poetry, prayer, silence and reflection
- Using Psalms with simple responses
- Using Anglican sentences and responses e.g. May the Lord be with you / and also with you

Organisation for Collective Worship

Worship is organised in Gainford C.E Primary School at the centre of the school's daily life.

Worship is organised and lead by staff, our clergy, our pupils as leaders of worship, friends from our church e.g. Open the Book Team , Messy Church lead

Organisation for Collective Worship

- There is daily Collective worship; this takes the form of Whole school worship or Class/Key Stage worship .
- Picture news worship is linked to a topical theme in the news each week and contributes to the children's wider understanding of the world, global issues, courageous advocacy and mental well-being.
- In our Whole School Celebration Worship each week, members of different classes reflect on the whole week's worship and share their thoughts/actions with the whole school. This is also an opportunity to celebrate pupil achievement across the school and link it to our Christian Values
- Class worship is planned and led by each class in the Autumn and Spring term
- Preschool/Reception children are invited to attend whole school worship after their first week in school.
- At the time of Worship, a candle will be lit as a clear visual focus for the children to reflect upon.
- Lunchtime prayers are said in classes before dismissal for lunch.
- "End of day" prayers are observed in all classes prior to dismissal at the end of the school day.

Location

- Whole school worship takes place in the school hall and at times in St Mary's Church
- Class worship takes place in classrooms or the school hall
- Worship, may also take place outside and will take place on residential visits and educational day visits

Planning

We plan worship across the week to build on a particular theme or to focus on a particular Christian Value in order for children to deeply reflect on a particular idea. Bible scripture is central to our worship sessions and helps to provide context or examples to support children's understanding of more complex/abstract ideas.

The structure of our collective worship is as follows:

- Gather
- Engage
- Reflect
- Respond

We provide many opportunities throughout the week for children to reflect on the value or theme and to be able to respond through their actions that week.

Resources

These include books, Open the Book resources, prayers, CDs, artefacts, video clips etc

We use materials from Picture news along with Bible scripture, objects, artefacts and images on which to base our worship.

The school visits St Mary's Church for Collective worship and to celebrate events such as Harvest, All Souls, Remembrance Christmas and Easter as well as the school's Year 6 Leavers' service. Year 6 pupils also attend the Leavers' Service in Durham Cathedral to share worship with other Diocesan schools; this is led by the Diocesan Board of Education.

Pupils may also attend other services and collective worship led by the church such as Blessing of Animals on the village green, Crib Service in addition to the weekly Sunday Service

Entitlement

At Gainford C.E. Primary School, we believe that collective worship is an important part of every child's spiritual development and all pupils regardless of race, gender, physical or academic ability are entitled to participate. Every attempt is made, therefore to ensure that materials used are appropriate to a range of abilities and interests.

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities/Equal Opportunities

Collective Worship at Gainford Primary is totally inclusive. All ages and abilities are provided for in planning and delivery of Collective Worship.

Our school worship is about sharing what is meaningful and significant in our lives. It is about sharing common concerns and responsibilities and developing positive attitudes