

# **COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY AND PRACTICE**

Summer Term 2026

*To be reviewed* Autumn Term 2029

## **Importance statement**

The daily act of collective worship at Greatham Primary School plays a central role in our life and work. It provides us with valuable opportunities to reaffirm our values and ethos. It offers important opportunities to strengthen our sense of community, belonging and inclusiveness and to reinforce the respect and care we have for each other. Through collective worship we make a significant contribution to the religious, spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of those present. At Greatham Primary School we aim to **deliver** a broad, high quality and inspiring curriculum that unlocks the unique potential of every child within a safe, caring and vibrant learning community. We **inspire** children and leaders in an environment where every child is known and able to learn without limits so they can achieve success and good preparation for life in modern Britain.

## **Aims**

- to offer pupils with a range of opportunities to worship God (however defined or understood)
- to give pupils opportunities to reflect on the significance of Christian (and other faith traditions') stories, events and festivals and how these might effect their lives
- to offer experiences and opportunities for pupils to join in with and respond to a variety of forms of collective worship in order for them to reflect on the significance of their own and others' beliefs
- to promote our shared values and contribute to our common life together by celebrating individual achievement, school achievement and wider community achievement within the context of collective worship

These aims mean that our collective worship programme is such that we can include all our school community. The pupils at Greatham Primary School understand collective worship as assembly.

## **Collective worship and the law**

We comply with legal requirements of the 1988 Education Reform Act by providing a daily act of collective worship for all pupils on the school roll on the school premises. The majority of our acts of collective worship are 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character' and 'reflect the broad traditions of Christian belief'. We also recognise the religious, spiritual, moral, social and cultural insights provided by other principal religions and life-stances represented in Hampshire and in Great Britain.

Collective worship will therefore include Bible stories, stories about notable Christians, information about Christian practice, Christian festivals, stories with morals and Christian artefacts and images.

## **Collective worship and parents**

We emphasise the importance of our collective worship programme in developing our school's ethos and values 'Care, Aspire, Achieve' and in providing a range of opportunities for pupils to consider important issues for life and living. Parents do however have the right to withdraw their child(ren) from the daily act of collective worship. This must be arranged with the Headteacher prior to withdrawal. The school is not required to provide alternative worship but parents may do so if they wish. This could include taking a child off of the premises as long as this does not interfere with the child's educational provision.

## **Collective worship planning and organisation**

There are 5 Collective Worship sessions each week. Each session takes place at 2.55pm and ends in time for the children to go home.

The organisation of each session is as follows:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Whole School	Whole School	Class based*	Class based*	Whole School
Picture News including prayer or reflection	Singing including reflection and reverence- reference to the RE Curriculum Golden Threads is also made	Poetry including reflection and reverence	Picture News including prayer or reflection	Celebration including prayer and reflection

The Collective worship themes follow the Picture News scheme of work. Picture News is an educational current affairs resource for schools that helps teachers bring real-world events by supporting discussion, critical thinking, and pupil voice in the classroom.

Every week there is a big question and related image based on a current news story to encourage debate and discussion, reflection, prayer and reverence.

Every edition connects to a British Value, a UN Right of the Child and at least one of the protected characteristics.

It is the responsibility of staff leading the act of collective worship to ensure that the content and form of delivery is accessible for all those present. Staff may link Picture News to one of the following additional opportunities :

- Use of the Bible and other sacred texts as sources for stories and teachings, emphasising common themes and ensuring the inclusiveness of the school community is reinforced
- Moral tales/teachings and contemporary situations are also drawn on where appropriate
- Appropriate festivals and other significant days are marked
- Stories about notable Christians
- Information about Christian practice and other religions
- Christian artefacts and images and those from other religions

All Collective worship sessions invite children to 'Reflect, Revere and Respond'.

Ways in which reflection, reverence and response are offered are as follows:

- silent thoughts;
- a child's prayer;
- a teacher's prayer;
- a prayer read from a book;
- a poem;
- a song;
- music;
- a prayer said together;
- lighting a candle;
- group responses e.g. through refrains such as 'and we are grateful'; and

- open prayer e.g. children are invited to share their thoughts.

### **Whole school acts of collective worship**

- We aim to create an atmosphere of stillness and calm.
- Children enter in silence and use the time to reflect on their emotions, successes or an image
- The act of collective worship, usually takes 15 minutes altogether

### **\*Class-based acts of collective worship**

- We aim to give our pupils some 'space' to be quiet and to think reflectively during collective worship in their classroom
- These acts of collective worship may be led by the class teacher or by the pupils
- They usually take 15 minutes

### **Use of Visitors**

We draw on religious figures from the local community to lead acts of collective worship in order to enhance community cohesion.

### **Health, Safety and Well-being**

In collective worship we follow the school's health, safety and well-being policy. For example, appropriate care must be taken when using lighted candles and electrical equipment. Internet resources used must be checked by the leader prior to their use in act of collective worship. In the event of fire all pupils must be familiar with exit routes from the halls and other areas of the school where collective worship takes place. Visitors are not left unaccompanied with children/young people.

### **Equal Opportunities and Inclusion**

Collective worship will challenge stereotypes, misinformation and misconceptions about race, ethnicity, religion and gender. During collective worship, religions will be presented fairly and accurately and diversity and equality will be affirmed.

### **Monitoring and Evaluation**

As part of the school's monitoring and evaluation cycle the Headteacher or Governor may monitor individual acts of collective worship and feed back to staff. Governors who visit collective worship complete governor visit forms.

### **Review**

This policy will be reviewed every three years.