



**Goring Church of England  
(Aided) Primary School**

**Faith, Love and Learning**

# **COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY**

**Adopted November 2017  
Review November 2019**

## **Mission – what is our reason for being?**

- To educate
- To nurture
- To serve the community
- To develop children's faith and spirituality
- To be inclusive
- To improve life outcomes
- To develop children's life and learning skills
- To develop morals and principles

## **Our Values**

- ✓ Love
- ✓ Faith
- ✓ Self –worth
- ✓ Respect
- ✓ Aspiration
- ✓ Equality
- ✓ Fun

## **Our School Vision for 2020**

### **To be a Church of England Primary School that:-**

- Secures outstanding outcomes for all children throughout the primary age range.
- Establish positive, recognisable 'hallmarks' for children that reflect our ethos and values.
- Reflects God's love in the community and beyond.

# COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

The Policy represents a shared view of the aims and objectives for Collective Worship in our school.

As a Church of England Aided School, worship is central to the life, ethos and purpose of the school.

The overall aim of the Policy is to clearly define the nature and purpose of worship within our school and to make explicit, the means by which we engage and involve children in the daily act of worship in a relevant and meaningful way.

## Foundation Governors

The school has been held on a Church of England Trust since 19<sup>th</sup> Century.

The Foundation Governors therefore have a particular role in the arrangements for school worship and will be actively involved in policy making and in guiding and monitoring the quality of worship within the school.

The school has Foundation Governors who have a responsibility to preserve and develop the Christian character of the school as set out in the Ethos Statement.

## The School's Aims for Worship

Worship will be:

- Inclusive
- Curricular
- Educational
- Stimulating and reflective
- Central to school life

## Objectives

To ensure that worship is inclusive we will:

- Encourage participation by all present
- Provide opportunities for individuals and small or large groups to lead or make active contributions in leading worship
- Value contributions and responses by children and adults
- Make worship relevant and meaningful
- Make worship a positive experience for those present
- Provide opportunities for non-teaching members of staff, Governors and parents to attend worship

To ensure that worship is curricular we will:

- Make links with the curriculum where appropriate
- Reinforce current work going on in the classrooms where appropriate
- Complement the RE Policy

To ensure that worship is educational we will:

- Value and recognise the importance of assemblies led by the clergy
- Help children to begin to develop their own ideas about God
- Use the Bible to exemplify a specific focus or enhance a theme
- Apply the relevant principles of teaching and learning as set out in the agreed Teaching for Learning Policy

- Provide opportunities for Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development

To ensure that worship is stimulating and reflective we will:

- Include a range of strategies and techniques to stimulate, motivate and inspire
- Be thought provoking
- Include opportunities for reflection

To ensure that worship is central to school life we will:

- Value the time spent together daily
- Relate themes and experiences to the daily life of the school
- Exemplify the Mission, Vision and Values, which give direction and purpose to our actions and work in school
- Provide opportunities for children and adults to maintain and further develop links between the school and St Mary's Church
- Provide opportunities for parents to participate in worship
- Welcome visitors or members of the local community as contributors to worship

## **The Atmosphere for Worship**

The atmosphere for school worship will be:

### **Peaceful and calm**

- Carefully selected music as children enter and depart
- Children will be expected to enter and leave quietly and to wait patiently until all classes have arrived
- Children causing distraction to others will be asked to sit with the teacher
- Children will be taught to understand that this is an important time together and to appreciate the reflective nature of the worship
- The adult leading the assembly will be organised, well prepared and ready at the front of the hall before children arrive
- To signify the start of worship the altar candle will be lit
- There will be a focus at the front to draw the children's attention and encourage thought and reflection (eg pictures, special or everyday objects)
- Notices/information to be given out will take place after the worship element of an assembly, drawing a clear distinction between the two purposes of the assembly

### **The Anglican Tradition**

We will ensure that worship focuses on the faith and practice of the Church of England (essential features of Anglican prayer and worship) by:

- Using the bible as a source of inspiration and learning
- Including traditional features of the Anglican tradition ie teaching, reflection, prayer, music and hymns

- Reflecting on Christian symbols and their use in worship ie the cross, the candle
- Taking account of the cycle of the Church's year in a way that is relevant and meaningful for our children (including major Christian festivals)
- Maintain and improve our Church/School links by regularly visiting the Church as part of RE curriculum studies as well as holding child led services every term
- Displaying or making a collection of prayers and hymns to include in acts of worship
- Learning traditional responses and the Our Father
- Inviting members of other Christian denominations to lead worship
- Welcoming all pupils of whatever faith and celebrating shared values and beliefs

## **The Bible**

**We will develop children's understanding that the Bible is central to worship by:**

- Ensuring that the biblical input (e.g. carefully chosen verses and stories, bible characters, selected readings), is relevant and meaningful to the worship
- Demonstrating clear purpose for including bible passages – to enhance the worship or theme, give context to worship, to develop children's awareness of how Christians use the bible
- Recognising links to the RE curriculum and building on them
- Using the bible appropriately during worship – at the beginning to set the context, in the middle to expand the focus of worship or provide contrast to the chosen method of delivery, refocusing thoughts, at the end to draw together the threads of worship

### **Planning for use of the Bible**

- The worship co-ordinator (Headteacher), with support from the incumbent will provide the long term plan (framework) for worship, to include appropriate use of the bible for a range of purposes
- The vicar or curate leading the assembly will know the planned provision for worship and will be responsible for his/her weekly assembly, including use of the bible
- Children will be given opportunities to deliver readings at a level appropriate to their age or stage of development and will be given time to prepare

### **The Eucharist**

The school Eucharist was introduced in Summer 2005 and is now well embedded in practice, with staff and children well prepared.

A School Eucharist takes place every term, led by the incumbent.

Parents of Key stage 2 children are consulted during the Spring Term and if they wish their children to prepare for communion, children undertake a course of preparation lessons led by the incumbent.

## Prayers

We will encourage children to explore the experience of prayer by:

- Including children in prayer in all acts of worship, through thought and reflection, as listeners, through tradition response, as readers and in using 'set prayers' learned by all eg the traditional format of The Lord's Prayer
- Discussing traditional postures for prayer and the element of personal choice
- Developing children's understanding of the flexibility of prayer-that individuals may pray in different ways
- Developing links with the RE curriculum-knowing, understanding and respecting that people of different faiths have different practices and traditions
- Providing opportunities to learn about the significance of prayer to different people-members of the school community (children and adults), the Church and the wider community
- Making links between prayer and everyday life-asking for help, giving thanks, expressing repentance (which may be individual), and sharing enjoyment
- Making class and school collections of prayers written by children (or scribed by teachers)
- Including prayer in the classroom, at different time of the day – lunchtime (grace) and home time
- Develop 'school prayers', learned by the children and used at relevant times during the school year eg end of term, beginning of the school year
- Using artefacts in and around school, which aid reflection – candles, crosses, displays

## Hymns and Music

Hymns and music are greatly valued by the school as an integral and essential element of worship, providing the opportunity for the school community to join together in praise and celebration.

We will ensure that children appreciate the purpose and value of hymns by:

- Providing regular opportunities to learn and practise the hymns or songs we choose to include in worship, to ensure quality participation
- Ensuring that hymn practice sessions include elements of worship, such as readings, or times for reflection
- Encouraging participation by all by carefully selecting hymns to appeal to children of differing ages and abilities
- Using strategies which will allow participation by younger or less able pupils eg younger children joining in the chorus, the overhead projector to display words
- Building up a repertoire that reflects the range of traditions of Christian worship

We will ensure that music is used purposefully by:

- Being organised and prepared with music ready prior to the assembly
- Ensuring that worship leaders follow the same routine so that children know what is expected of them ie listening, sitting quietly
- Carefully select music to play as the children enter and leave, to enhance the calm and peaceful atmosphere of worship
- Using the music as a focus for children's attention on entering – displaying a musical instrument (or picture to listen for
- Taking the opportunity to link with the music curriculum by asking a question about the music at the end of the assembly – eg the composer, title, name of instruments
- Inviting musicians to play – enriching and enlivening the worship though a variety of musical expressions
- Providing opportunities for children to use and celebrate musical talents – playing as children enter or leave, accompanying hymns, playing at the end of assembly for children to listen to and appreciate
- Providing opportunities for children to compose their own music or their own words to a familiar hymn tune
- Build up a repertoire and lists of suitable music to be played at different times or occasions

## **Dance and Drama**

Dance and Drama provide the opportunity for children to express themselves in a creative and imaginative way and may be used to:

- Tell stories from the bible
- Represent characters from the bible
- Represent story book characters or those from real life
- Show how a person may be feeling

Dance and Drama will be:

- Relevant to the worship
- Prepared in advance (a short practice or rehearsed piece)
- Engaging to the children watching

## **Planning for Worship**

The worship co-ordinator (Headteacher) will oversee the planning for Worship.

### **Arrangement of groups for daily worship**

Monday	-	Year Group Assemblies
Tuesday	-	Whole School led by the Headteacher
Wednesday	-	Whole School assembly led by a member of the clergy

Thursday	-	Songs of worship
Friday	-	Whole school assembly led by the Deputy Headteacher

### **Arrangements for Good Work assemblies**

Mrs C Cruz has responsibility for agreeing dates with Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 teachers. These assemblies may take place at any time during the year and are related to the curriculum. The assembly is a celebration of work (not a 'performance'), with children preparing and presenting the assembly. Children write their own prayers for worship and parents are invited to attend.

### **Arrangements for whole school worship in Church**

Key Stage 2 teachers and children plan and prepare for services held in St Mary's Church. These include:

- Harvest
- Christmas
- Easter
- Year 3 Leavers

Parents and Governors are invited and encouraged to attend.

## **The Long Term Plan**

### **Long Term Plans**

The school's long term plan for Collective Worship themes was reviewed and amended by the Worship Co-ordinator and The Reverend Christine Wilson during the Spring Term 2009.

The bi-yearly programme incorporates:

- Breadth of themes addressing school, local and global issues
- Appropriate links with RE
- Appropriate links with SMSC and PSHCE
- Special occasions in the school calendar
- The use of the Church calendar (and specific themes to be led by the clergy)
- Coherence in clergy and school led assemblies
- Global Citizenship

From time to time, the school may change themes included in the long term plan to incorporate school activities and events or to respond to local or global events.

### **Medium/Short Term Plans**

These are reviewed regularly. These plans will include:

- Content and intentions of weekly assemblies for the term
- Hymns and other musical items
- Visitors to be invited to take part in school worship
- Children's involvement
- Evaluations

## **Monitoring**

The Worship Co-ordinator will monitor the planning and provision of Worship in a regular basis to make provision for further development and improvement.

The Foundation Governors have an important role in supporting and monitoring school worship and this is to be reviewed and developed during Summer 2009.

## **Policy Review**

The Policy for Collective Worship will be reviewed during 2014/2015 (date to be agreed with Governors).