

Guilden Sutton Church of England Primary School



'Love and Justice for All'

'And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.'

Micah 6:8.

through the teachings of Jesus all can flourish spiritually, emotionally and academically throughout life, living out love and justice for all.

Collective Worship Policy

Staff member responsible	Mrs. T. Rainford & Miss. R. Doak
Governor/Other responsible	Mr. A Parker
Date of Policy	May 2025
Reviewed	Every 3 years
Headteacher Signature	
Governor Signature	

Introduction

This policy has been prepared by the governors, the Incumbent and the staff of Guilden Sutton Church of England Primary School. Diocesan guidelines for Collective Worship have been referred to.

The right of withdrawal

The parents' legal right to withdraw their child from acts of worship is clearly stated in the R.E. curriculum section of the school website. If there are any children whose parents exercise their right to withdraw them from worship alternative activities will be provided in consultation with the children's parents. This does not mean that the children will be in any way exempt from the Christian ethos of the school which underpins the whole of school life. Parents are made fully aware of this when they enrol their children.

Intent:

At Guilden Sutton Church of England School we always seek to reflect in our worship the Christian foundation of the school and its care for all who work here. Children are helped to understand the meaning of Christian worship and we hope that believers will be able to share in it and that others of no faith will have a clear understanding of how Christians worship.

Our central aims of Collective Worship are to:

- Enable children and staff to explore and celebrate the differences and diversity found in the variety of forms of worship in the Anglican tradition.
- Lead the school community to understand worship in order for them to make an informed choice about their own involvement and to consider their own personal relationship with Jesus Christ.
- Seek to deepen and widen the experience of those of 'faith' and encourage those of 'no faith' so that they begin to feel for themselves something of what it means to worship.
- Use celebration, silence, stilling, reflection, contemplation, meditation, prayer, song, symbols and imagery as vehicles for worship and spiritual growth.
- Provide opportunities for the whole school community to address God directly through Jesus in the power of the Holy Spirit through acknowledging his presence, reflecting upon his character and giving Him praise and honour.
- Use a vocabulary of worship that encourages the whole school community to attend, participate and lead worship.
- Encourage all present to explore their own beliefs and understanding of God within a Christian framework by learning more about the Christian faith and by encountering Christ through worship.
- Raise awareness through reflection of the ultimate questions of life relating to matters of faith.
- Reaffirm, strengthen and practice the school's key Christian values (love, justice, friendship, forgiveness, wisdom and compassion) and celebrate each unique individual member of the school community as made in the image of God.
- Nurture and encourage respect and care for God's created world by promoting a positive attitude to environmental issues locally, nationally and globally.

- Seek to provide opportunities for spiritual, social and moral development that is characterised by feelings such as awe, wonder, being uplifted, elation, appreciation, gratitude, respect and reverence.
- Develop a sense of community within the school, the locality (e.g. local church) and foster the sense of being part of a wider community through the celebrations of achievement, festivals and special occasions.
- Foster a concern for the needs of others.

In summary within our daily act of Collective Worship, we aim to:

- Provide an opportunity for children to worship God
- Celebrate all that is good and beautiful and express thankfulness
- Provide opportunities for children to share what is meaningful and significant to them, including times of sickness, difficulty and bereavement
- Ensure that the experiences provided are relevant to the age, aptitude and family background of the children
- Give time for silent reflections and exploration of inner space
- Illustrate forms of worship that others have found helpful in their spiritual development e.g. silent contemplation, dance and singing
- Provide a rich variety of forms of expression e.g. art, drama, music, story and give children the opportunity to experience these at their own level rather than teachers imposing their own interpretations
- Provide an environment that is conducive to worship
- Always invite, never coerce, remembering that children will be at different stages of spiritual development and that they should feel able to respond and participate at their own level.
(National Society Web site, 2007)

Implementation:

Our Collective Worship is distinctively Christian and contains 6 core strands.

Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
The teachings of Jesus and the Kingdom of God (what life looks like under God's reign)	Stories in the Old Testament (looking for meaning)	Proverbs and Poetry	Sacraments Baptism & Eucharist Lent leading up to Easter	Miracles and Parables	Living as disciples including the global church

An additional strand of The Anglican Year is continuously on-going every year.

Time to be Still takes place every Wednesday as a whole school. The teacher or pupils leading choose a piece of music which allows children and staff to stop and take time to be still and calm in order to encourage their own spiritual development. Friday Collective Worship takes the form of celebration and

reflect the achievements and learning of the children. They offer an opportunity to acknowledge and reward children for their achievements both in and out of school. They play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school, which is that all children are valued and all achievements are recognised. Andy Avery (Chester Schools Christian Work) leads Collective Worship every Tuesday, involving children in acting out Bible stories and exploring our Christian values through them. See **Appendix 1** for an example of a weekly Collective Worship timetable.

All classes take part in Collective Worship in St John's Church, Guilden Sutton at least once a year to celebrate Christmas, Easter and 'A New Beginning.' Other visits are made as part of our R.E. scheme of work and invitations to family and festival services are regularly made. Messy Church is held in the school hall every term and the communities from Mickle Trafford and Guilden Sutton are welcomed and join in worship.

Monitoring, Evaluation and Review

Monitoring and evaluation are part of a whole school cycle of self-review and this will be achieved over time by asking all stakeholders to reflect on school worship.

Monitoring

Monitoring of Collective Worship will be carried out jointly by the Headteacher and the worship co-ordinator. Useful strategies for collecting the evidence will include:

- Written observations; checking that practice matches the planning
- Observing children's attentiveness and level of interest
- Conducting occasional formal observations of Collective Worship and providing feedback
- Seeking feedback from children, staff, parents, governors, incumbent and visitors
- Observing the extent of the Collective Worship's influence on children's attitudes and behaviour throughout the school
- Holding regular discussions with colleagues
- Gathering written comments from colleagues of the worship planning sheet

Feedback is recorded in a 'Pupil Voice' book.

Evaluation

The information gathered via one or more of the strategies listed above will be analysed carefully in order to evaluate the quality and effectiveness of the Collective Worship. The worship co-ordinator, the Headteacher and foundation governors, including the Incumbent, will be the main evaluators. Formal evaluation of Collective Worship will take place at least annually in the Collective Worship action plan, which is part of the school's strategic development plan.

Review

The Headteacher, governors and staff will review this policy every three years. A worship planning record sheet is kept weekly to ensure that acts of worship are generally compatible with requirements of the policy and to inform our learning and planning for further developments. These will regularly include any formal and informal evaluations of acts of Collective Worship which will assist monitoring, future planning

and delivery. Visitors outside the school community who are regularly involved in acts of worship are provided with a copy of the Collective Worship policy.

Inclusion and Equal Opportunities

A daily act of Collective Worship is held for all children regardless of their background of culture or religion. Every effort is made by the school to involve all children unless withdrawn by their parents in accordance with the law.

Responsibilities

It is the ultimate responsibility of the head and governing body of a school to ensure a daily act of Collective Worship takes place. At Guilden Sutton, the responsibility to co-ordinate the acts of worship are delegated to the Collective Worship coordinator, and the Incumbent, Revd. Heather Carty. They plan themes and liaise with visiting speakers, keeping a record of the content of each act of Collective Worship. Monitoring and evaluation is the responsibility of the foundation governors.

Impact:

At Guilden Sutton C of E Primary School, Collective Worship is highly valued and every effort is made to ensure that all children and staff take an active part in a high-quality daily act of Collective Worship. Worship may contain many elements but we seek to specifically ensure that the act of Collective Worship is a learning experience as well as a spiritual encounter. Children should have a clear idea of how Christians worship and a clear understanding of the school's vision and key values. Continuous monitoring and evaluation will ensure that Collective Worship is meaningful and appropriate for all.

Appendix 1

Example of a weekly Collective Worship plan

Monday 10:20	Tuesday 10:20	Wednesday 10:25	Thursday 09:10	Friday 14:30
Headteacher to lead	Andy Avery (C.S.C.W)	Time to be Still led by Year 6 pupils	Class teacher to lead Class prayers	Celebration Assembly