



St Gabriel's CE Primary School

Collective Worship Policy

Our Vision Statement:

Our aim is to nurture children with the confidence and self-belief to achieve their best;
to have the courage to think for themselves;
to be resilient in their learning and ambitious in their hopes and dreams;
to live in harmony, respecting others;
to search and question throughout life's journey;
to find personal faith;
and to learn about the Gospel of hope and love found in Jesus Christ.

Seeking to nurture:

Self-belief CourAge ResIlience AmbiTion HArmony

“Stand firm... be courageous” 1 Corinthians 16:13

Policy Reviewed: Autumn 2024

Next Review: Autumn 2026

In accordance with our Vision Statement:

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to find personal faith;
and to learn about the Gospel of hope and love found in Jesus Christ.

At St. Gabriel's our ethos is embedded within the Biblical teaching of:

'Stand firm... be courageous.' 1 Corinthians 13:16

As a Church of England school, our Christian ethos underpins all that we do and is at the heart of our school family. We endeavour to provide children with an understanding and knowledge of Christian heritage, develop a spiritual dimension in each child and offer the basis of a faith by which to live. We aim to nurture the development of children's 'spiritual eyes' with which to view themselves, others, the natural world and a faith in God.

Our values of self-belief, courage, resilience, ambition and harmony are rooted in the school's Vision Statement of F-A-I-T-H. We believe these dispositions and attributes will equip children to be confident and successful learners and be future citizens who act with integrity, responsibility and respect for others.

Valuing collective worship

Inclusive

Collective worship is a special time when the school family can gather, share, learn and reflect. Our worship is distinctly Christian, based on Bible teachings and stories and reflects Anglican traditions. Through our Beacons and individual classes, children are involved in the planning, leading and evaluation of worship. Our collective worship also reflects our local context and our pupils' experience, including their cultural backgrounds.

Invitational

Our worship provides the opportunity to engage, whilst allowing the freedom of those of different faiths and those who profess no religious faith to be present and to engage with integrity. Acts of prayer are invitational, children and adults are invited to pray if they wish to do so and to pray in their own way.

Inspirational

In accordance with school's Vision Statement, children and adults are encouraged to ask big questions about who we are and why we do what we do. We encourage children to reflect on their actions and consider issues affecting the wider world. We also include references to issues affecting children's 'Harmony' and well-being – such as bullying and online safety.

School also recognises the right of withdrawal from collective worship for those parents or pupils who wish to exercise this option.

Aims and purpose

Collective Acts of Worship are rooted in the Bible and reflect our Christian values. Through a variety of approaches, we expect that pupils will be introduced to the key beliefs and aspects of the Christian faith and helped to explore them. These would include:

- The nature of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit;
- The nature of human beings as children of God, and though sinful, part of his creation and made in his image;
- Jesus as the Son of God who, through his life, death and resurrection, broke the power of evil and restored humanity's relationship with God;
- The central values of forgiveness, selfless love, redemption, goodness, compassion and charity;
- The central place of the Bible as a source of knowledge about God and Jesus and as a source of inspiration and guidance;
- The importance of prayer;
- The central symbols of Christianity;
- The cycle of the Church year.

Experiencing collective worship

We want children and adults to have personal responses to worship:

- To *explore* and question a relationship with God, *explore* and question the teachings of the Bible, prayer and the school Christian Values. *Explore* what and how people worship and what it means to have faith.
- To *encounter* Christianity in action, the nature of God as revealed in Jesus, creative silence, the awe and wonder of God's creation and a relationship with God.
- To *experience* the joy and celebration of God's love. Encourage and develop children in leading worship.
- Collective worship should be an enriching experience for everyone in the school.
- Collective worship should enhance an individual's spiritual journey and relationships with God.
- Collective worship should give everyone a sense of the 'overtures' of God's love.

Organisation of collective worship

We hold a daily act of collective worship. This is either a whole-school, key stage or class based. These times together are seen as a period of calm reflection.

Monday	Whole school – led by Headteacher
Tuesday	Come and Praise - led by Deputy Head
Wednesday	Individual class-based worship
Thursday	Clergy led worship
Friday	Come and Celebrate – led by Head and Deputy

We regard it as a special time and expect children to behave in an appropriate way. We ask children to be quiet and thoughtful and to listen carefully and participate.

Whole school worship follows structured themes with associated hymns, presented by Powerpoint. These link to God's Big Story and the individual concepts of:

- Creation
- Fall
- People of God
- Incarnation
- Gospel
- Salvation
- Kingdom of God

God as the Trinity is referred to and candles lit to represent and teach an understanding of Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Church liturgy, seasonal colours and events are explicitly referred to. Celebrations and events of other world faiths are also referred to and taught.

Tuesday worship follows the same 'flow' with an added emphasis on song and music. Wednesday worship is class based, utilising each class's worship area resources and specific input from the Beacons eg prayer stations. The vicar of St Gabriel's is responsible for worship on Thursday.

Our Friday worship offers an opportunity to acknowledge and reward children for their achievements and successes both in and out of school. This assembly plays an important part in promoting the ethos of the school - that all children are valued and all achievements are recognised. It provides opportunities to show how school's vision is being lived out. Prayers on Friday and Monday are led by Beacons.

We invite parents to join special acts of worship led by classes such as Harvest and Remembrance, as this promotes the community spirit and a first-hand experience of school's ethos 'in action'.

In all our assemblies a sense of worship will be built up through the use of music, silence, appropriate movement into and out of worship and through the setting of the worship table.

Pupil Involvement

St. Gabriel's has a worship group called 'The Beacons'. This consists of a range of children who work with the Mrs. Mackley and Mrs Hilliard, giving ideas about how Collective Worship can be improved, as well as working on specific projects. The Beacons review and develop new activity cards and prompts for use by children in class worship and also lead whole school worship each term.

Teachers involve pupils in leading worship in class, providing children with an opportunity to reflect and respond to the weekly worship theme, exploring a related big question each week. In each class there is a reflection area where children can create their own prayers along with termly activities, designed by the Beacons, to encourage prayer in different ways. This creates a spiritual focus in their classroom that promotes spirituality and stillness.

When possible, our school orchestra and ukulele groups also contribute to worship in school by accompanying our act of praise and worship as a whole school.

Cross curricular links

Collective worship themes are linked closely with the curriculum and are embedded across many topics that we plan and deliver. It reflects and shapes the core values and contributions to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils. Issues concerning citizenship and care in our environment are also considered.

Review and reflection

After Monday's act of whole school worship, an individual class is invited to reflect upon the theme/big question and record their thoughts in the Reflection Book. This provides a whole school response to worship over the year.

Beacons also reflect and evaluate their own leadership roles in school, seeking new opportunities to grow and develop.

Withdrawal

Children – parents do have a legal right to withdraw their children from Collective Worship in our school. However, as this is in accordance with our Church of England Foundation and this in turn is reflected in our curriculum and whole life of the school community, removal from Collective Worship will not insulate pupils from the religious life of the school.

Staff – if staff wish to be excused from attending Collective Worship on the grounds of their religious opinion or practice they should inform Governors, in writing, as to their reasons.

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Appendix

Pictorial Representation of Spirituality at St Gabriel's

Spirituality is all about finding meaning, purpose and connection in life. In school, we develop spiritual understanding through how we think and feel about:

ourselves, **others**, the **natural world** and **God**.

These relationships, thoughts and experiences shape our sense of self and belief in the 'beyond'. Our five attributes help us develop spiritually, as we learn more about ourselves and our values.

As a Church school, spirituality has a Christian perspective of **F-A-I-T-H**.

Each attribute is linked to a motivational Bible reference.

