

Collective Worship Policy



BE THE LIGHT
MATTHEW 5:15

Introduction and Living our Vision through Collective Worship

Grampound with Creed School is a Voluntary Aided school serving a village community whose vision is set out to ensure every child shines their light and flourishes – “Be the Light – Matthew 5:14” Collective Worship allows our pupils to gather, engage, respond and send so they can shine their light and reflect on God’s message for them. It is part of the aims of the school to offer a wide-ranging education, to prepare pupils for life not only in their own community but also in a wider world.

Worship can be an energetic praising time, but can also be a time to breathe; a time when all who come together can find a space in stillness and quietness to reflect on their own spirituality, values and place in the world. Just as breathing is vital to survival, worship is a significant and sacred time in school; ensuring the valued time allows all to ‘breathe’ through our collective worship.

Legal Requirements

- All pupils must take part in a daily act of collective worship, unless they have been withdrawn from it by their parents.
- Parents have the right to withdraw their children from collective worship.
- As Grampound with Creed is a Voluntary Aided School, collective worship will be ‘of a wholly Christian character’, that is to be within, or linking to, the traditions of Christian beliefs on all occasions.

Aims for Collective Worship

Our school community gather daily for Collective Worship; this time is sacrosanct and enables us to reflect, discuss and wonder about how we can make a change based on God’s teaching. Where possible, we encourage the children to reflect upon what they have heard or learnt through prayer or comment, providing opportunities to contribute their ideas and feelings in the classroom reflection areas.

The following aims have been agreed with the Governors:

- To establish, affirm, and celebrate the common and shared values of the school
- To nurture the identity and nature of the school as a community
- To develop positive attitudes among the pupils

- To provide an opportunity for pupils to gather, engage, respond and reflect to worship God
- To develop pupils' spirituality, awe and wonder and
- To enable pupils to come to terms with their own beliefs, values and commitments, and with those of others
- To promote the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils
- To acquaint children with the presence of the Church in the community
- To celebrate achievement on the part of individuals or groups of children
- To experience moments of silence and reflection
- Worship is understood as an act of collective worship in school and can be interpreted very openly and widely as an act which brings the whole school to a point where they are able to make a shared, reflective response to a divine being, power, ideal or value of some worth, wholly or mainly within the broad traditions of Christian belief on the majority of occasions.

Approaches

Every Collective Worship follows the approach below;

Gathering – The special atmosphere is created to show the children that this is a distinctive part of our school day. Our Collective Worship team light a candle and say;

We light this candle to show that we are here to worship God; The Father the Son and the Holy Spirit.
 Together, we can be the light and shine bright.
 Together, we show love, wisdom, hope and trust.
 We trust that God will lead us.
 We have hope in our hearts.
 We learn to show love every day.
 We grow with God's wisdom.

Engaging - Collective Worship gives pupils opportunity to:

- engage in an act of community
- explore the big questions of life and respond to National Events
- celebrate special times in the Christian calendar
- express praise and thanksgiving to God
- affirm Christian attitudes and values

Reflect and Respond – Through opportunity to respond and reflect, pupils opportunity to:

- be still and reflect
- share each other's joy and challenges
- reflect on the character of God and on the teachings of Christ.

Sending – Children are encouraged to wonder how what they have learnt or heard through the messages shared in the worship will help them to:

- foster respect and deepen spiritual awareness



- make a change based on the Christian teachings
- identify how they could make a difference to the community or wider world through courageous advocacy.

Management

Responsibility for collective worship in Grampound with Creed School lies with the RE Co-ordinator and Head of School whose task is:

- to provide a sequence of themes for each week – including pupil led worship where appropriate
- to establish and maintain a resource base
- to liaise with the local community in terms of visitors
- to arrange visits from the local vicar as regularly as is possible
- to arrange use of Parish Church on special occasions
- to arrange visits from other religious representatives

Expectations of Collective Worship at Grampound with Creed

- ❖ All collective worship must be 'Inclusive, Invitational and Inspiring'.
- ❖ There must be an act of collective worship every day, where every child in the school is invited to attend. This could be whole school or in class.
- ❖ All teaching is Christian, following the teachings of the Bible. These will be explored and made relevant to everyday life.
- ❖ All acts of worship must be linked to the school's values of hope, trust, wisdom and love
- ❖ The leader of the worship will create a welcoming and invitational atmosphere on arrival to engage the children to be conducive to worship. This could be showing an image linked to the theme or value to promote discussion and questions.
- ❖ The leader will light the candle saying, 'We light this candle to remind us that we are here to worship God, The Father, The Son and The Holy Spirit. The Worship will end with the leader saying "May the light of Jesus shine in our hearts. God be with you" and all pupils will answer "And also with you"
- ❖ Children should be given time to share ideas in talk partners. Ensure the visual and phrase, 'What would Jesus Do?' is used where appropriate. This could be when discussing dilemmas or challenges. Encourage the children to draw on their knowledge of previously learnt biblical teachings.
- ❖ Sung worship should be included in the collective worship timetable.
- ❖ Opportunities for stillness, silence and reflective prayer should be offered to think about the key thoughts and the Bible message.
- ❖ Children must be given the opportunity to pray in every collective worship. Children should also lead the prayer often. Prayer sentence stems starter are available to the children use in every collective worship.
- ❖ All worship should end with a thought or a question for children to ponder, to encourage them to act following the worship session.
- ❖ Collective Worship will be monitored by the RE Lead, Head of School and Collective Worship Governor termly.

Resources

The school maintains a resource base for collective worship with the RE Resources.



Timing

Collective Worship will take place daily at 1pm.

Evaluation

- Governor monitoring of Collective Worship by Foundation Governor termly
- Regular evaluation and update of Collective Worship Themes – Summer 19

This policy was reviewed in September 2022 and will be reviewed again It will be reviewed bi-annually. Its implementation and effectiveness will be monitored by the Head of School and the Governor responsible for Collective Worship and their evaluation used in the review of the policy. The School is aware of and sympathetic to the potential individual needs of all of our stakeholders. These unique needs may be due to a wide range of circumstances of a long or short duration. We will endeavour to accommodate these to ensure an inclusive approach by promoting positive images and experiences of differing race, gender, LGBT and abilities.

