

# Collective Worship Policy

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## **1. Policy Statement**

At Temple Grafton School, the daily act of collective worship is an integral and important part of our school life.

Through this and in the ethos of the school we seek to promote our mission statement:

BELIEVE AND ACHIEVE

Our mission is to provide inclusive learning of the highest quality, within the context of Christian belief, practice and values.

It is a time where we can come together to share our love of God and celebrate our achievements (and sometimes failures) together. The worship is based on promoting the Christian values which permeate the ethos of the school. As such, contributions of Church clergy, staff, pupils and other visitors are highly valued.

## **2. Legal requirements**

We acknowledge the legal requirements stated in the 1988 Education Reform Act 6 (1) and 9 (3), which state the need for each child to attend a daily act of worship either as a whole school, class or group.

Parents have the legal right to withdraw their child from the act of worship either partially or wholly.

Any parents wishing to do so should contact the Headteacher. Teachers also have the right to withdraw from and taking part in worship.

## **3. Aims of Our Collective Worship**

- to affirm our identity as a Church of England school
- to be inclusive, encouraging a sense of unity and identity
- to engender an understanding of the Christian values which should underpin our lives
- to celebrate being part of God's world
- to provide time for silence, stillness and reflection leading to inward reflection which can lead to the development of an outward and open lifestyle in which we live generously with others
- develop a sense of self-worth and value whilst fostering the ability to discern the importance and relevance of profound and religious questions
- develop a spirit of enquiry, a desire to seek after truth and to search for meaning in life.

## **4. Content and Format of Assembly**

As a Church of England school, assembly will be Christian based. Children will be taught about Christian beliefs and the importance of Jesus and how He affects our lives.

Emphasis will be put on spiritual and moral values, caring attitudes and a love of our fellow man. Assembly should be a happy and enjoyable time when everyone comes together. It is never used as a time for conducting other school business – on the few occasions when this is necessary, it comes after the end of worship is signalled by the blowing out of the candle.

A sense of reverence is important. Children are encouraged to develop an awareness of some of the mystery and wonder of the Christian faith and be encouraged to think and question. They should realise that sometimes there is no definite answer but our beliefs shape our attitudes and actions.

At the start of each assembly three children from across the school are selected to open our worship by: lighting the candle on the worship table and bringing the bible and cross to the worship

table. In conjunction with the children a simple liturgical response has been scripted to accompany this part of the worship.

Jesus light of the world is here: Lord Jesus shine upon us,  
We welcome the Bible it guides us in everything we try to do : We welcome God's words,  
We welcome the cross it reminds us of what Jesus gave for us: we thank you Jesus  
Special days and seasons in the Christian calendar are celebrated.

Leaders use different methods of delivering assembly to make the experience interesting and stimulating.

Children are offered a time to reflect during assembly. This can happen during prayer time when they can have a few moments of silence or listen to some words that will help them think.

## **5. Prayer and Reflection**

Collective worship always includes a time of prayer and/or reflection, including hymn practice.

The Lord's Prayer features regularly in our acts of worship. Other prayers are offered by those leading our worship.

This time of quiet is encouraged by the lighting of a candle that is situated on a special table in front of our cross. Once this special time has come to an end the candle is extinguished and news items and notices can then be given.

We say grace in class at the end of our morning school and prayers for our day are said at the end of school.

## **6. Organisation of Worship**

Collective Worship takes place as follows:

Weekly Routine:

Monday	Led by Headteacher or church community
Tuesday	Hymn singing and prayers or Led by Teachers (rota basis)
Wednesday	Class assemblies
Thursday	Led by Headteacher
Friday	Celebration Assembly led by Headteacher ( families and governors welcome)

If for any reason we cannot hold a whole school assembly then classes worship in their individual classrooms.

Class 4 managers prepare the hall for assembly. This includes:-

- Putting out the assembly table with the cloth of the correct liturgical colour.
- Collecting the cross, bible and candle ready for the start of worship.
- Organising the rota of children to lead the start of worship
- Setting up the laptop and data projector
- Putting on the music for the hymn.
- Putting out the benches for Class 1 and Y6 and chairs for staff
- Clearing away afterwards

## **7. Themes**

Visiting Clergy usually choose their own themes but generally discuss these with the Headteacher in advance. They often link with the half termly "Value" or the schools' "Golden Rules". Sometimes they follow special celebrations such as Saints Days, Lent, Ascension Day etc.

Our collective worship relates to the children's experiences and is of a broadly Christian character, focusing on Christian values and key events in the Christian calendar.

On Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays, the school meets together to explore a variety of religious, spiritual and moral themes. We ensure that some aspects of spiritual, moral, social and cultural development are reflected too.

Each half term we focus on a different Christian Value (based on the Diocese of Gloucester's Values for Life file.) which we link to our 'Golden Rules'. The value is not only explored during worship but is developed throughout the school day in lessons and at break times. A display board at the top of the stairs reflects the value currently under consideration.

On Wednesdays each class holds its own act of worship during the day. On Fridays the focus of our worship is on celebrating achievements, reflecting on our learning and providing reinforcement of our positive school ethos.

Each act of worship reflects the following criteria:

1. appropriateness for our children
2. legal and Diocesan requirements
3. suitable for the promotion of the school's Christian ethos
4. supportive of the school's R.E. curriculum
5. provides a variety of format, focus and experience for our children
6. invites participation

Special services/assemblies are held across the road in St. Andrew's Church. These are usually held on the last day of each term.

We also hold a Harvest Festival in the Church, and take part in the village Christingle and Mothering Sunday Services.

- A) Autumn Term: Harvest Festival and Christingle Service
- B) Spring Term: Mothering Sunday and Eucharist Service
- C) Summer Term: Leavers' Service

The implementation of our Collective Worship Policy is the responsibility of all staff and our Governing Body.