



## Collective Worship Policy

The Collective Worship Policy at Great Binfields Primary (GBP) pays due regard to statutory requirements, and has taken account of the guidance offered by the LA. In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act and the 1996 education Act, which states that collective worship should be '*wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character*', and in recognition of the fact that the majority of our pupils are practising members of other faiths we base our assemblies on those aspects of Christian teaching that are shared with other faiths. The Collective Worship Policy of GBP is consonant with the philosophy and aims of the school as expressed in the school prospectus. Assemblies are conducted in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faiths and beliefs of all members of the school.

**Definition of Collective Worship** Collective Worship is a time when the whole school, or groups within the school meet together in order to consider and reflect on common concerns, issues and interests. It offers all pupils an opportunity to worship through engaging in relevant, meaningful experiences and provides opportunities for the pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

### Aims and Purpose

#### For the School:

Collective Worship contributes significantly to the ethos of GBP and it is our aim that it is a time when the school community can:

- share common aims and values
- celebrate achievement and special times
- explore together the world in which we live
- develop a community spirit

#### For the Pupils:

We also intend that Collective Worship contributes to the development of the pupil as a 'whole' person by providing opportunities to:

- reflect on that which is considered worthy
- consider spiritual and moral issues
- explore their own beliefs
- develop their own spirituality
- reflect on the direction of their lives
- reinforce positive attitudes
- participate and respond
- reflect on what it means to be human
- consider the wonders and worries of the world

**The Contribution of Collective Worship to aspects of the Curriculum** Collective Worship time is distinct from curriculum time. However, at GBP, Collective Worship will at times feature aspects of the curriculum, which will enhance the experiences of pupils by reflecting on the work done in classes. At

times, Collective Worship will enrich classwork through its consideration of subject matter from different perspectives.

The provision of opportunities for pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is in line with school policy which informs our practice. To ensure Collective Worship provides opportunities for spiritual, moral, social and cultural development it will address a wide variety of themes and topics, use diverse stimuli and resources and provide pupils with the opportunity to 'respond' on their own level.

### **The Organisation of Collective Worship**

Collective Worship is organised to provide a variety of groupings and will take place in the school hall or the classroom.

Collective acts of worship are incorporated into themed whole school assemblies, themed class based weekly sessions and RE lessons. At GBP, we follow a Collective worship weekly timetable, following the 'Collective Worship Guidelines for Schools'.

*Collective worship and assembly Collective worship and assembly are distinct activities, although they may take place as part of the same gathering. Collective worship is a special time for pupils to reflect upon life experiences and ultimate questions and, if appropriate, focus on God. It should allow the pupils to be able to make a spiritual response... Schools often gather for achievement assemblies, singing assemblies and curriculum assemblies. These can be made into an act of collective worship through the addition of an opportunity for reflection or prayer at the end of these times. Without it they stay as an assembly."*

**Monday**- Whole School- led by HT, DH, and guest speakers, followed by an 'Open the Book' session for EYFS and KS1 in the afternoon.

**Tuesday**- Class Jigsaw assemblies/Circle Time with reflection at the end, incorporating the learning and how it relates to children's own faiths and beliefs – led by the Class Teacher/Learning Support with a theme.

**Wednesday** – Singing and Praise – led/organised – by our specialist Music teacher

**Thursday**- Led by our Class Teachers/Guest Speakers on rotation, each week having a theme with reflection time/moment of stillness/prayer at the end

**Friday**- Whole School –Achievement Assembly with reflection time at the end - led by HT/DHT

Every member of the teaching staff and occasional visitors will be involved in leading acts of assembly/worship at some point in the school year.

### **Visitors**

From time to time, we may invite visitors into collective worship sessions.

This may be whole school, key stage, year group or class worship sessions.

- Any visitor must be agreed with the headteacher first.
- The visitor must be accompanied at all times by a member of staff for safeguarding purposes.
- There must be a clear and positive rationale for the visit.
- The content of any presentation/discussion must be agreed in advance, and must always be in line with the school's values and ethos. It should also be age appropriate.

### **Planning Acts of Collective Worship**

The content of all acts of Collective Worship are carefully considered, to ensure relevance and suitability for the ages, aptitudes and backgrounds of all pupils. Termly assembly rotas including a range of themes, special occasions and events are followed, but will be flexible to allow the inclusion

of current and topical issues. Themes for the term are introduced and focussed on during all Collective worship sessions aligned with our whole school values and concepts.

### **The Act of Collective Worship**

A variety of teaching and learning styles and active and interactive methods are appropriate in acts of Collective Worship. Any and all of the methods employed in the classroom can be used effectively in acts of Collective Worship. A variety of resources will also be used. Assembly leaders will choose the style/method and resources which are appropriate to the content, the age, aptitude and the background of the pupils. The content and process must be sufficiently stimulating in order to evoke a response in the individual. This may not be visual, but opportunity must be given to express this response through reflection and prayer. If announcements are to be given at the same time as an act of worship then they will be of a positive nature, which at times may enhance the act of worship itself. Announcements will be made preceding the act of worship and a clearly defined break between them and the act of worship will be made.

### **Possible Content**

The content of a whole school or key stage assembly may reflect any of the following:

- marking the celebration of a broad range of religious and cultural festivals that reflect a diversity of faiths
- examples of lives of people of faith and other good human beings
- stories supporting themes from a range of sources and cultures
- response to key local, national and international events
- providing an opportunity to think about their own beliefs and the lives of others
- putting things into practice e.g. supporting charities, tolerance, understanding of differences
- providing a moment for silent reflection/prayer
- celebration of successes of members of the school community
- performances or presentations from members of the school community
- input from visiting speakers

### **Classroom Assemblies**

Classroom collective worship/circle time is valuable because:

- Children can be given greater opportunity to participate and respond.
- Children are more likely to offer their deeper thoughts and feelings in a more intimate setting.
- Direct reference can be made to the children's PSHE and Self Compassion learning in curriculum areas.
- Stimulus material can be closely matched to the children's age and abilities

### **Celebrating Achievements**

- Assemblies may also reflect the achievements and learning of the children. We encourage children to participate by holding celebration assemblies and class assemblies, during which children may show their work and share successes with others, and can raise issues that they have discussed in their classes. These assemblies provide an opportunity to reward children for their achievements both in and out of school and celebrate them together. They also play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school - that all children and their achievements are valued.

**Withdrawal** Our assemblies will be conducted in a manner as sensitive and inclusive as to ensure that all children feel comfortable to attend the assembly. Parents/carers have the right to withdraw their child from the daily act of collective worship. Schools must comply with this wish and must ensure a duty of care for pupils who are withdrawn from collective worship. The school will respect parental requests and will try to discuss the request to see if an accommodation can be reached and

to ensure worship remains inclusive and invitational and open to all members of the school community.

**Monitoring and evaluation**

Monitoring and evaluation of collective acts of worship, is undertaken by pupils and staff, and. All leaders of assemblies are asked to evaluate continuously, reflect afterwards, to develop and improve practice.

**Review Dates:** Spring 2019 and Spring 2022

**Next Review Date:** Spring 2025