



Collective Worship Policy

'Reflection Time'

Introduction

This policy reflects the importance which our school places on Collective Worship. It is written in line with guidance from the Wiltshire Standing Advisory Council for RE. The person with overall responsibility for Collective Worship in our school is the Headteacher, supported by the Deputy Headteacher and the RE Subject Leader.

Philosophy

Greentrees is a community school so having a regular part of the school day which allows us to come together as a diverse school community is important to us. Collective Worship provides us a time of reflection about a topic or theme, often linked to our school vision and ethos. Collective Worship is attended by all pupils, and any visitors in school are very welcome to join us. Our caring ethos and the value we place on the development of the whole person is reflected in the way in which Collective Worship is planned and led. For example, inclusion is important to our vision and we aim for Collective Worship to be inclusive to all, as it is a shared activity that allows for a variety of responses and enables those present to become increasingly aware of themselves as individuals and to appreciate and deepen their sense of wonder about the world around them.

At Greentrees School, we recognise that Collective Worship is an important opportunity to develop our pupils' Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural understanding. However, to reflect the fact that the majority of our school community is non-religious, we choose to move away from the language of 'worship' and instead refer to this act as an assembly which will include 'Reflection Time'. Throughout this policy, both 'Collective Worship' and 'Reflection Time' are used. However, in school, and with the children, it is solely referred to as Reflection Time.

Aims

The aims and purpose of Reflection Time are:

- To contribute to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of each child by giving time to reflect upon and respond to big questions about life
- To provide the opportunity for pupils to consider spiritual and moral issues and to explore their own beliefs which, for some, will include the opportunity to worship God

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- To encourage participation and response, whether through active involvement or through listening to and joining in as an individual.
- To develop in children a sense of community spirit
- To promote the school's ethos of shared values and to reinforce positive attitudes
- To celebrate and give thanks for the achievements within the school, local and international community and occasions of significance, including festivals
- To celebrate people's uniqueness, gifts and talents
- Foster and enable a concern for the needs of others, and to recognise the part we can play in making the world a better place for everyone
- Grow pupils' understanding of the nature and language of worship e.g. through songs and the experience of stillness and quiet as an opportunity to reflect and/or pray (based upon their religious beliefs)
- Support the broader curriculum through the use of art, music, dance, drama and other visual and oral means of communication

Legal requirements

Collective Worship has been a legal requirement in maintained schools since 1944 and for academies and free schools the requirement is set out in their funding agreement. Collective Worship at Greentrees is in line with the 1988 Education Reform Act which sets out that Collective Worship:

- Must be provided for every pupil aged 5 and above, every day, unless they are withdrawn by their parents. See below for more information on how to exercise the right to withdraw from Collective Worship in our school.
- Is not part of the taught curriculum time of the school
- Is specific in terms of content and states that the majority of Collective Worship in a term must be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character'
- Can take place at any time of the school day, in any place within the school and with any age or school grouping of pupils

Right of Withdrawal

We hope that the ethos of togetherness and inclusion we have taken care to create means that Collective Worship in our school is seen as something that staff, pupils and parents/carers value as part of the way we provide for the holistic wellbeing of the children. Should a parent/carer wish to, they can request that their child is excused from attending all or part of Collective Worship. In this instance, they should:

- a) Contact the school office to make an appointment with the Headteacher to ask any questions about content or to request to observe an example of Collective Worship
- b) If parents/carers still wish to withdraw their child, they should make their wishes known to the Headteacher and be clear about whether withdrawal is from all or some specific parts of Collective Worship. A reason for withdrawal is not needed. If parents/carers and the school agree that the pupil should be allowed to remain physically present during the Collective Worship, but not take part in it, nothing in the law prevents this.
- c) Once a pupil is withdrawn from all/part of Collective Worship, the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of their child during the period concerned.

Organisation of Collective Worship

Collective Worship happens daily and takes a variety of forms, either as part of whole key-stage assemblies or within classes. Within assemblies, a dedicated time to stop and reflect is given. This is marked by sharing an image of a candle with the children and the same image is used when Collective Worship happens within the classroom.

Day	Person Leading	Focus	Venue
Monday	Head at Infants / Deputy at Juniors	See termly assembly plan	Hall
Tuesday	Class teachers	Reflection through Music	Classroom / Hall
Wednesday	Class teachers	See termly assembly plan	Classrooms
Thursday	Deputy at Infants / Head at Juniors	See termly assembly plan	Hall
Friday	Head / Deputy (parents invited)	Celebration Assembly	Hall

We conduct acts of worship in a dignified and respectful way. We tell children that they are a period of calm reflection. We regard it as a special time and expect children to behave in an appropriate way. We ask them to be quiet and thoughtful and to listen carefully to the teaching. Children are given the opportunity to participate in prayer and songs, including hymns, at times.

We invite parents to our weekly Celebration Assemblies. This promotes the community spirit of the school and is a practical demonstration of the way the home and the school work together to support the achievements of our children. We also welcome governors' attendance at our assemblies at any time.

We value hearing from different people and so members of the community are invited into school to deliver special assemblies (including time for reflection) over the course of the year. Visitors leading assemblies are supported by being given clear instructions about the aims and objectives of the reflection theme so that a visitor's contribution adds to the overall scheme for Collective Worship.

Planning and Themes

The Collective Worship leader creates a termly plan for themes to be covered. These are available on the school website. The themes are taken from the broad tradition of the Christian faith and we also reflect upon the festivals and events of the Christian calendar. We also include festivals and events from other religious calendars, such as Diwali and Eid. Whilst most Collective Worship services are planned in advance, we do take time to respond to events as they happen, both those within the school community, nationally or globally.

British Values

All schools have a duty to 'actively promote' the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.

- Tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs: British law protects freedom to choose and hold other faiths and beliefs. This should never be the cause of prejudice or intolerance from others. Collective Worship in our school embodies this attitude.
- Mutual respect: Collective Worship helps promote positive attitudes towards diversity. We aim for it to allow pupils to explore what happens when people are not treated respectfully due to their faith or beliefs.
- Democracy: Collective Worship is a time where pupils carefully think through issues for themselves.

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- The rule of law: Rules and laws from different faiths are often a focus in Collective Worship. Pupils are given the opportunity to reflect on how these rules would affect their own lives and lives of believers.
- Individual liberty: Collective Worship is a time for pupils to consider questions about identity and belonging. They may think about the way they are themselves and how they are 'free', but also think about constraints and responsibilities placed on all of us by our cultures, faiths and beliefs.

Monitoring and evaluation

It is the role of a named school governor with responsibility for religious education and collective worship to monitor the policy and practice of collective worship. The governor concerned liaises with the Headteacher before reporting to the Local Governance Committee (LGC) on religious education and collective worship.

Signed: Mark Wilson (Chair of Governors)

Date: November 2024

Date of next review: November 2027