

St Gabriel's C of E Primary School



COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY Autumn 2020

St Gabriel's Mission Statement

Excellence with compassion* is at the heart of St Gabriel's. We are a Church of England school and value our strong links with the parish church of St Gabriel's and the Pimlico community. We seek to provide an excellent education for all our pupils, rooted in compassion, understanding, respect and equality for all.

The aims of our school are:

- To foster and encourage our children's self-awareness, beliefs and spirituality, and develop their sensitivity to other people and respect for other religions,
- To help children to develop their skills in reading, writing, mathematics, science and ICT through learning which is broad, balanced and inspiring,
- To help children to fulfil their potential by creating a happy, healthy, safe, nurturing environment,
- To provide children with the academic, social, emotional and spiritual foundations which will give them the best start to secondary school and which will give them a wide range of opportunities and the chance to pursue their personal aspirations in life

*Colossians 3: 23 & 12

1. PURPOSE

This policy statement is to ensure that all children are provided with a meaningful daily act of worship, which is in accordance with legal requirements and the school ethos.

2. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

Collective Worship is central to us as Church School and reflects our core aims and vision as a school.

In particular, Collective Worship should:

- Provide pupils with an opportunity to worship God
- Give pupils experience of Christian acts of worship in an inclusive and welcoming context
- Foster a sense of community
- Promote our common ethos of 'Excellence with Compassion'
- Celebrate the life and work of the school, enabling pupils to develop feelings such as awe, wonder, reverence and respect
- Provide opportunities to explore the meaning of Excellence with Compassion and our key Christian values, including our 6 core school values of Friendship, Peace, Service, Endurance, Justice, Wisdom and British Values
- Create an experience which encourages spiritual development, where pupils have an opportunity to consider theological and moral issues, and explore their own and others' beliefs

- Provide a breathing space in the busy whirl of school activity where there is a time to celebrate and reflect
- Be inspiring, enjoyable and fun, providing pupils with a positive view of Christianity and the Church
- Be distinguishable from everyday activities of the school
- Be an opportunity to respect and celebrate the uniqueness and diversity of all pupils, staff and stakeholders
- Be appropriate to pupils' needs and interests, and encourage their participation and response

3. ORGANISATION

1. There should be a daily act of worship provided for all pupils, held in either class groups, key stage groups, or as a whole school, providing an opportunity for pupils to take part in worship (see weekly worship pattern)
2. Collective Worship should include a talk/ presentation, an opportunity to engage with and respond to the weekly theme, a hymn/ song, a prayer and where appropriate, the lighting of a candle.
3. Acts of worship should be carefully planned so that learning experiences of real quality take place. They should be differentiated to take account of the differing ages, abilities and backgrounds of the children
4. Acts of worship will complement and enhance the work carried out in R.E. but must not attempt to replace it
5. a) The setting for the act of worship should be made as attractive and stimulating as possible. Often it helps to provide a visual focus (eg powerpoint presentation, props, puppets etc).
b) A range of music will be played as children enter and leave, to enrich the act of worship and to ensure the children feel happy, calm and secure.
c) Staff and pupils should enter and leave acts of worship in silence.
6. Music is a central part of our Worship life; all children, staff and visitors will be expected to join in with communal singing as part of Collective Worship
7. Children will have the opportunity to participate in a variety of ways, including celebrating a range of educational achievements, setting up the hall, operating the projector, singing, reading, responding, quietly contemplating and praying. Often children will be given the opportunity to lead aspects of our worship
8. All staff are expected to attend acts of worship (unless directed by the Headteacher otherwise) and to actively participate
9. Acts of worship will be held in the Great Hall, the parish church and classrooms
10. Parents, Governors and friends are encouraged to attend special assemblies – such as Family Assembly on a Thursday, Church Services and special occasion assemblies (e.g. Book Day)
11. The Collective Worship Co-ordinator will provide the staff with a timetable and themes for worship which will reflect the school's core values, and as appropriate, the National Society's 12 values and British Values.

Pattern of Weekly Worship

	Time	Attending	Leading
Monday	9.10a.m.	Whole School	Headteacher
Tuesday	9.10am	Whole School	Assistant Headteachers (alternating)
Wednesday	9.10a.m.	Mass KS2 classes take it in turns, all other classes follow up the theme for the week in the classrooms	The Vicar or Curate
Thursday	9.10a.m.	Whole School Community (including parents and carers)	Headteacher
Friday	9.10am	Whole School	Headteacher and vicar (Vicar presents a them that would be visited in church on Sunday)

Class acts of worship – Brief guidelines

- On days where there are no whole school assemblies acts of worship should be held in the classrooms.
- These “acts of worship” should be distinct from normal classroom activities.
- They should last for up to 10 minutes. A prayer is not sufficient.
- There can be some focus – candles, pictures, incense, artefact, music, vase of flowers, jug of water, poem or a display on cloth, with natural objects such as shells, leaves, twigs or man-made objects based on a theme (e.g. – Easter, painted eggs, crosses, hot cross buns.)
- Class could gather together on the carpet or in a circle around the display.
- There should be a time for stillness and reflection.
- If children do not actively participate they must not spoil it for others.
- Try to get away from story, hymn, prayer sandwich in acts of worship.
- Wednesday classroom worship can also be a revisit of the theme introduced on the Monday

Other contexts

We also make the most of opportunities to take part in acts of worship in other Churches to mark special occasions or Worship events with other schools (e.g. Leavers’ Service in St Margaret’s, Queen’s Anniversary in St Gabriel’s, London Diocesan Schools service at St Paul’s Cathedral).

4. PLANNING, MONITORING AND EVALUATING

Long term planning, monitoring and evaluation of Collective Worship is undertaken by the Collective Worship co-ordinator (Headteacher) For 2020-21, the plan includes the school’s chosen Christian values through Bible stories, Bible verses and stories of Christians, Saints and Old Testament figures. It also follows the pattern of the Christian festivals throughout the year. We also include significant and inspirational black and

ethnic minority Christians and individuals.

We regularly gather the views of children, staff, parents and other stakeholders to inform future planning.

The school will review this policy annually and assess its implementation and effectiveness. The policy will be promoted and implemented throughout the school.

5. RESOURCES

Collective Worship resources are stored in the Hall, PPA Room and Headteacher's office. There are books, DVDs, Music CDs, a range of Bibles as well as access to resources online, for staff to utilise to ensure that Collective Worship is as engaging as possible. Staff may sometimes use the Drama, Art or Music resources available in school. The Collective Worship co-ordinator is able to provide staff with a range of resources and ideas to support with delivery.

6. PRAYER

At St Gabriel's we are a praying community, helping the children to respect the importance of individual and community prayer in different religious traditions. We hope to help each other listen to God speaking to us and to respond in our hearts and minds during moments of silence. Prayer areas are set up in the playground. Children's prayers are put into a school book and every class has a prayer folder. The whole community contributed to the School Prayer.

7. WITHDRAWAL FROM COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

As a Church of England School, we see Collective Worship as a crucial element of coming together as a community, and it is our aim that all the children in our care will participate in the acts of worship we provide. However, we do appreciate that parents have the legal right to withdraw their children from Collective Worship and we respect that right. We would always ask parents with a concern in this area to discuss the matter with the Headteacher.

8. EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES / SPECIAL NEEDS / EAL

In planning for and organising Collective Worship, teachers take a differentiated approach to ensure equality of opportunity for all children, including those with SEN or EAL.

It is important that all children feel included in acts of worship, and are free to participate as far as they feel comfortable. We encourage all children to respect our Christian ethos, and the beliefs of one another, and we celebrate the diversity our children bring to our school community.

Rebecca Anson, Headteacher – December 2020

Appendix 1

Monitoring Collective Worship

Occasionally, acts of Collective Worship themselves should be monitored to ensure legal requirements are met and the school's policy is being implemented. This includes all forms of groupings.

The following proforma can be used to monitor any one act of worship.

Theme of Collective Worship..... Led by

<u>Area Monitored</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Satisfactory</u>	<u>Poor</u>
The environment is conducive for Collective Worship			
The right atmosphere had been created and an appropriate focal point had been established			
Preparation was thorough			
Attention had been given to the age, aptitude and background of pupils and was inclusive other whole school community			
Content was appropriate to the theme			
The values promoted by the school were addressed			
Opportunities for worship were provided through personal reflection and/or prayer			
There were opportunities for spiritual development			
Opportunities for moral, social and cultural development			
Links with areas of the curriculum			
Pupil involvement			
The ethos of the school was enhanced			
The pupils' comments about the experience			

The leader's comments about the experience			
Your evaluation of the experience			

Signed

Dated