

**LITTLE GADDESDEN PRIMARY SCHOOL  
COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY**

**From:** May 2015

**Review Date:** May 2018

**COLLECTIVE WORSHIP AT OUR SCHOOL**

We understand worship to be a special act or occasion whose purpose is to show reverence to God. Collective worship involves all members of the school coming together and participating in an Assembly. Our worship in accordance reflects the tradition of the Church of England. Worship is at the heart of our school and reflects some of the features of Christian prayer and worship. Worship is held each day in the hall, classroom or church as part of our assembly. It is a legal requirement that all registered school age pupils take part in an act of worship each day. These acts of worship must be "wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character" for the majority of the time. They must also be "appropriate, having regard to the ages, aptitudes and family backgrounds of the pupils". Therefore we refer to the beliefs of other faiths in our assemblies and conduct our assemblies in a manner that is sensitive to the faiths and beliefs of all members of the school community.

**VALUES AND AIMS**

We believe that worship both supports and strengthens what we aim to do in every aspect of school life. Our caring ethos, and the value which we place on the development of the whole child; Spiritually, socially, culturally and intellectually is reflected in our worship. We value this special time in the school day for the space it gives children to develop a reflective approach to life and the ability to express their reflections in traditionally religious ways or any other appropriate manner. Through our worship we aim to provide a caring and supporting environment which provides an opportunity for the school community to:

- Worship God;
- Become increasingly aware of themselves as individuals and groups within the school and wider community;
- Grow in understanding of the feelings of other people in everyday situations;
- Explore the language which people use to express their feelings and beliefs;
- Deepen their sense of wonder about the world around them;
- Grow in confidence when making a presentation to the group or whole school;
- Respond freely to religious and / or spiritual stimulus;
- Acknowledge diversity and affirm each person's life stance, whether it be religious or not.

## **OBJECTIVES**

We see school worship as an educational opportunity with clear objectives. We use this time to encourage our pupils to:

- show interest in, and a concern for, members of the school community;
- celebrate special occasions together;
- show concern for the daily happenings in school life, the local community, the wider world;
- learn about some of the elements of our Anglican heritage
- share appreciation of worthwhile projects undertaken by groups within the school;
- explore and review the variety of values, attitudes, standards, manifested in religions and society;
- reflect upon dimensions of human life - the wonderful, beautiful, joyful, heroic, humorous, tragic, sorrowful, solemn .....

## **PLANNING**

Our worship themes broadly follow the pattern suggested by St. Albans Diocese which is based on the church year. The Head teacher plans the weekly themes for the term. We use the Bible as a source book for inspiration and learning. However, we also respond to local situations and need both within the school and outside. We aim to use a range of resources and materials appropriate to the pupil's ages and stages of development. We combine our acts of worship with assembly, helping to ensure that worship takes place within a broad educational framework. We believe that creating the right atmosphere is crucial to the quality of the worship. We choose from a

range of methods, including:

- pupils' contributions
- sacred and secular stories / readings
- dance / drama
- prayer / meditation / songs / hymns / music
- artefacts / natural materials
- visual aids / focal points
- dialogue / creative silence
- visitors

## **ASSEMBLY PLAN**

Monday Whole school led by Head teacher

Tuesday Whole School led by the Vicar

Wednesday Key Stage Assemblies, with an emphasis on PSHE

Thursday Whole School ,with an emphasis on singing

Friday Whole school – celebration assembly

Parents' assembly

Grace is also said before lunch each day.

## **CONSULTATION**

The Head teacher PSHE co-ordinator and vicar are responsible for planning the themes for worship.

## **SUCCESS CRITERIA**

At this school we evaluate our acts of worship against some of the following:

- the purpose and the theme of the worship being clear to all those present
- involvement, enjoyment, attention, reaction of pupils
- an atmosphere which matches the theme
- the growth of respect and tolerance within the school community
- a contribution to the spiritual development of individuals – offering pupils/adults something to think about and take into the life of the school
- a sense of occasion
- a sense of challenge
- a place in the overall plan of the school

## **SONG / MUSIC**

Song / music is a very powerful means of creating the right atmosphere and unifies and uplifts the school community. We aim to create a balance of music, speech and silence and choose songs or hymns appropriate for the pupils and the theme.

## **PRAYER**

We feel that prayer is a good way of enabling children to focus their thoughts. Nevertheless, pupils should not be required to say or affirm prayers in which they do not believe.

Children may contribute a prayer if they wish.

## **DIVERSITY**

We understand that some children who attend Little Gaddesden School come from a different religious background. We respect the traditions of other faiths and those who lead worship do so in such a way as to allow all children to take part with integrity.

The rights of parents to withdraw their children from collective worship enshrined in the 1988 Education Reform Act. Any parent who wishes this may consult the Head teacher.