



COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Shared with Staff: _____

Approved by Governors: _____

Date of Review: _____

Committee Responsible: Foundation Committee

Chair of Committee: Reverend Keith Johnson

Awaiting approval

Collective Worship Policy

Our vision

Aspiring to be our best with kindness, respect and faith.

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind and love your neighbour as yourself.” John 10:27

At Great Kingshill Church of England Combined School, we promote a love of learning with God as our guide in a safe, happy environment. We challenge and support each other to do our best. Our Christian vision is based around the bible story of The Good Samaritan (Luke 10: 25-37) as it resonates with our school values of Love, Courage, Forgiveness, Hope, Respect and Truth and guides us in our vision of **‘Aspiring to be our best with kindness, respect and faith.’** Being a Good Samaritan is at the heart of everything we do at Great Kingshill, and this is also reflected in our school song **‘Would you Walk by on the Other Side’** (Cross Over the Road)

Collective worship is the unique heartbeat of our school and is offered as part of a wider opportunity for pupils and adults to encounter faith by engaging in conversations about God, both as individuals and together. Our partnership with St. Michael and All Angels Church encourages and supports the school in effectively developing the impact of and provision for worship.

Our values

Our children, staff and community members endeavour to support children to grow and be the best they can. Our children will have the faith and courage to aim for their future with confidence, self-belief and resilience.

We show **Love** by thinking of others and caring for those within our community.

We know we are loved by the actions of others; they make us feel safe and cared for.

We show **Hope** by aiming for our goals, knowing we can achieve and a willingness to learning.

We know that others have hope in us by the support they provide, the encouragement they give and the faith they have in us.

We show **Courage** by trying new things, being willing to have a go and striving to be the very best versions of ourselves.

We know that others are courageous on our behalf by the risks they take, the opportunities they give us and their determination to provide us with the best experiences.

We show **Forgiveness** to those who make mistakes by listening to them and moving forward, we forgive ourselves when we chose the wrong path, and say sorry with honesty and sincerity.

We know that others forgive us by their actions, they move on and let things go.

We tell the **Truth** and act with honesty; we are truthful in our thoughts and actions.

We know that others are truthful and do the best for us.

We show **Respect** by showing consideration to others and our surroundings, by listening carefully and by treating others the way they want to be treated.

We know that others are respectful by being kind and courteous and by respecting any differences in beliefs and opinions.

Pupils, staff and parents of all faiths (or none) are welcome to worship. Our school celebrates religious, cultural and ethnic diversity of all faiths, and encourages dialogue and understanding. We believe that we can all learn from each other, and that collective worship is an educational entitlement for all. In worship we create the opportunity to explore the place of faith in each of our lives, and in the communities in which we live. This worship can occur at various times of day and with a mixture of grouping of pupils. Through regular acts of worship our school has the opportunity of offering thanksgiving and praise to God through a range of liturgical patterns.

Collective worship gives pupils and school staff the opportunity to engage in an act of community, to express praise and thanksgiving to God, to be still and reflect, to explore the big questions of life and respond to national events, to foster respect and deepen spiritual awareness, to reflect on the character of God and on the teachings of Christ, to affirm Christian values and attitudes, to share each other's joys and challenges and to celebrate special times in the Christian calendar.

Inclusive

Our understanding of Christianity is that it is an inclusive faith which mirrors the attitude of Christ in the Gospels. Thus, we welcome children and staff of all faiths. This approach seeks to meet the needs of all, wherever they may be on their journey of faith and belief. Through their Christian character our acts of collective worship will:

- recognise and celebrate the diversity of cultures, lifestyles and faiths which exist in our school and local community.
- have an atmosphere in which everyone feels valued and safe.
- be appropriate for every student to attend.
- focus on issues and experiences which are relevant to the pupils.
- foster active roles of pupils, parents and members of the local community – in preparation, participation and leadership.
- provide pupils with the opportunity to think and ask questions.
- allow space to consent, and dissent: to participate and to stand back; and to consider.
- reflect the aims of the school and foster wide ownership of our vision and core values.
- assist learners to have increased awareness and to reflect upon fundamental issues about life.
- enhance, complement and extend curricular work.
- develop learners' understanding of the Christian faith and Anglican practice through appropriate Biblical and liturgical content.
- identify opportunities for Christian celebration which can be associated with other school events.
- this will include scope to celebrate the academic, social, personal and wider achievements of pupils.

Invitational:

Collective worship should not be 'done to' but will involve meaningful contributions from the whole school community, including pupils. It is recognised that pupils will bring their own experience to worship. Our collective worship grows out of the local context and out of pupils' experience, including their cultural backgrounds. Pupils and adults should always only be invited to pray if they wish to do so and should be invited to pray in their own way.

Inspiring

Collective worship should motivate pupils and adults into action, into thinking differently, and into reflecting on their and the wider community's behaviour and actions. As a result of inspirational collective worship, they should be inspired to become courageous advocates of causes. It should encourage them to think searchingly about their faith, beliefs and/or philosophical convictions.

Acts of collective worship will aim to:

- nurture and maintain the dignity of the image of God in human beings through working for social justice and encouraging students to consider the needs of others through charitable service.
- nurture reflection, meditation and prayer.
- provide pupils with opportunities to explore the spiritual dimension of their lives through music, images and words.
- provide a sense of occasion that separates them from the rest of the school day.
- foster an appreciation of the natural created world and our shared responsibilities for maintaining it.
- develop clear partnerships between worship in the school and the wider community.
- explore the school's vision and how that underpins shared values and virtues. In doing so, it will reflect on our values of love, hope, courage, forgiveness, truth and respect; and develop virtues such as resilience, determination and creativity that develop character and contribute to academic progress.
- help pupils and adults to appreciate the relevance of faith in today's world by encountering the teachings of Jesus and the Bible and developing understanding of the Christian belief in the trinitarian nature of God.
 - offer the opportunity, without compulsion, to all pupils and adults to grow spiritually through experiences of prayer, stillness, worship and reflection.
 - enable all pupils and adults to appreciate that Christians worship in different ways, for example using music, silence, story,

prayer, reflection, as well as through the varied liturgical and other traditions of Anglican worship, festivals and, where appropriate, the Eucharist.

- enable pupils to develop skills through engaging in the planning, leading and evaluation of collective worship in ways that lead to improving practice.

Timetabling of acts of worship:

- **Monday** – Leadership worship
- **Tuesday** – Key Stage worship
- **Wednesday** – Clergy led worship
- **Thursday** – Come and Praise (singing) worship
- **Friday** – Celebration Worship

Planning of worship, including its relationship to any core values:

All staff may be required to lead collective worship. Pupils may also lead collective worship under the guidance of adults. We have a carefully designed collective worship programme to promote spiritual, moral and cultural development, and collective worship aims to help develop pupil understanding of our vision and values. We have strong links with St. Michael and All Angels Church, and a member of the clergy leads our collective worship every Wednesday.

Acts of collective worship may include:

- stories and readings
- songs, hymns and music
- dance and drama
- prayer, meditations
- creative silence
- sacred/secular readings
- artifacts and natural materials
- children's contributions

Our acts of worship are of a clearly Christian character, recognising the diversity of our community, and providing occasions when pupils meet together in a variety of settings where a positive tone and focus for the day can be established. Pupils are given opportunities to reflect on relevant Christian, moral and spiritual issues, drawn from a variety of sources, thereby enriching their experience of life.

Worship is an essential means of recognising and celebrating school values and achievements in their broadest sense. In worship all participants are recognised for their personal achievement, both within school and in the community. Pupils are awarded in worship, with a range of rewards, including a Good Samaritan award for pupils showing our Christian vision in practice, thus placing achievement and effort in the Christian context of the school.