

George Fentham Endowed School

Policy for Collective Worship (November 2019)

School Christian Vision:

Our vision is to provide a happy, positive and safe environment where children and adults have the confidence to “Believe, Achieve and Succeed”. We offer an engaging, enriched curriculum which promotes a thirst for knowledge, treats everyone as individuals and inspires all learners to flourish.

Through our core Christian Values of: Creativity, Compassion, Perseverance, Friendship and Respect, George Fentham Endowed School nurtures our children so that they are kind, confident and enthusiastic individuals. We work together as an inclusive school family where we promote the essential Christian value to: “Love the Lord your God and love your neighbour as yourself.” (Matthew 22:36-40)

This policy has been drawn up by the RE/Collective Worship Lead: Alison Edmeades in consultation with the Governors of the school, Head Teacher: Julie Gaughan, Rev. Stuart Dimes and other members of staff.

Legal requirement:

George Fentham Endowed School is endowed by the George Fentham Trust and is a one-form entry Voluntary Aided School designated as “Church of England by usage”. In addition to the national legal requirement that there should be daily worship, our Statutory Instrument of Government states: “Recognising its historic foundation, the school will preserve and develop its religious character in accordance with the principles of the Church of England and in partnership with the Church at parish and diocesan level. The school aims to serve its community by providing an education of the highest quality within the context of Christian belief and practice. It encourages an understanding of the meaning of and significance of faith and promotes Christian values through the experiences it offers to all pupils.” Collective Worship takes place every day for all pupils.

Rationale for Collective Worship:

At George Fentham, Collective Worship is a highly valued part of the school day as it is the time when we gather together to affirm what is important to us, to our school and to our world. Here, the school affirms the claims of Christianity underlying the values of the school and representing the faith stance of some teachers and children. It provides an opportunity for pupils to worship God, whilst seeking to be relevant to, and inclusive of, all. It reflects our Christian tradition as well as exploring with pupils and staff a variety of ways in which Christians worship God.

In acts of Collective Worship in our school it is recognised that in our school community, some members will come from families with a commitment to the Christian faith, others from families with a commitment to another faith and yet others will have no particular commitment to any tradition. Therefore the content and language of collective worship allows for different levels of response. It invites rather than coerces.

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Policy for Collective Worship (November 2019)

The organisation of Collective Worship:

At George Fentham Endowed School Collective Worship offers a space for personal thought, reflection and prayer to all:

Spiritually:

- To think about God
- To make a response to God
- To explore a relationship with God
- To enjoy being in the presence of God
- To offer praise and thanksgiving to God
- To get a sense of things unseen
- To explore personal belief
- To feel a sense of belonging to a group that shares and celebrates together, as well as being thoughtful or sad together
- To experience a feeling of connectedness to others in the world and a sense of responsibility towards them
- To reflect upon ourselves and our lives as seen as part of a bigger picture
- To wonder
- To gain inspiration
- To receive a challenge to live differently
- To rejoice in being unique and precious

Socially, Morally and Culturally:

- To learn about different ways of worshipping and about imagery and symbolism
- To learn about different faiths
- To participate in marking important features of the church calendar
- To explore Christian values
- To use stillness and quietness
- To have a quiet moment in a busy day
- To celebrate gifts, talents and achievements
- To consider moral issues

Inclusivity:

Our Collective Worship is accessible to all:

- Whatever age, aptitude or background
- Where the integrity of each is respected
- Enabling children to explore and evaluate their beliefs
- Sharing worship from time to time with parents, governors and members of the local community

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Collective Worship takes place daily in the school hall and follows the following pattern:

Monday	Whole School Assembly: Jigsaw/Christian Value focus
Tuesday	Key Stage Assembly: Christian Value focus
Wednesday	Key Stage Assembly: World/Faith festivals and special days
Thursday	Key Stage Assembly: Picture news – moral/current affairs focus/hymn practice
Friday	Whole School Celebration Assembly

The planning of Collective Worship:

Each half-term there are themes for Collective worship based on Christian values for schools and “Jigsaw” themes. Those leading worship are encouraged to relate their worship to these themes. The themes chosen are broad enough to allow all those leading worship to approach the themes from their own perspective. This will mean that by the end of the themes, the pupils will have had the opportunity to reflect from a variety of viewpoints.

Reverend Stuart Dimes leads Collective Worship every half term, linking his worship to our themes.

We also take the whole school up to the Church of St. Mary and St. Bartholomew for four key services in the year:

- Harvest
- Christmas
- Easter
- Year 6 Leavers

“Open the Book” lead an assembly based on a Bible story each half term. This is always interactive, with children joining in and taking some of the acting roles!

There is a weekly celebration of world faiths, linked to the calendar, with worship focusing on a special day or festival occurring that week – “Diwali” for example.

Staff also use “Picture News” as a stimulus to discuss moral issues in the news. On occasions it is also recognised that those leading worship may feel that they need to respond to local or national events. This is always done with care and sensitivity.

All staff leading collective worship are given useful resources but are also asked to plan their act of worship as they would any other learning activity.

Our Pupil Worship Group - including children from Year 5 & 6 - plan and lead an assembly every half term with support from the Collective Worship Lead. This is always very popular with their peers.

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Policy for Collective Worship (November 2019)

The content of Collective Worship:

Within our collective worship we provide a wide variety of stimuli to help pupils to reflect upon and respond to the central theme.

These could include:

Stories, music, photographs, pictures, artwork, video, poetry, drama, games, questioning, discussion, singing and praying.

As a Church of England school, we reflect aspects of Anglican worship in the following ways:

- We use the Bible as a source of Christian teaching and give it a prominent place in our worship.
- We follow the cycle of the Anglican year; Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter and Pentecost and some saints' days.
- We use Christian symbols and artefacts, exploring their meaning for Christians
- We use predominantly Anglican prayers and hymns including The Lord's Prayer
- Time for reflection is always used

The management of Collective Worship:

The Governors hold overall responsibility for ensuring that the legal requirements for worship are met, but the Head Teacher has the statutory accountability for ensuring that collective worship takes place. The nominated person with specific responsibility for collective worship in our school is Alison Edmeades (Deputy Head Teacher and RE/Collective Worship Lead). We liaise with Reverend Stuart Dimes from Hampton Church: St. Mary and St. Bartholomew in the planning, monitoring and evaluating of collective worship.

Arrangements for recording, monitoring and evaluating Collective Worship:

A record of the theme and content of the collective worship is kept in a file.

Evaluation takes place in the following ways:

- Staff/Pupil feedback to CW Lead
- School Council agenda item
- Governors attend regularly

Parental Right of Withdrawal from Collective Worship:

Parents have the right to withdraw their child from collective worship. If a parent wishes to consider this option, the Head Teacher should be approached.

Agreed by Governors (Standards & Curriculum) Autumn 2019

Review date for the policy: Autumn 2021