

Collective Worship Policy

Great Ponton CE Primary School



Approved by:	Dave Simmonds	Date: 6.11.19
Last reviewed on:	November 2019	
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To inspire pupils to shine the Light of Christ in their home, school and community.

1 Aims and purpose

- 1.1 The aims and purpose of collective worship are:
- to provide an opportunity for the children to worship God;
 - to enable children to consider spiritual and moral issues;
 - to enable children to explore their own beliefs;
 - to encourage participation and response;
 - to develop in children a sense of community spirit;
 - to promote a common ethos with shared values and to reinforce positive attitudes;
 - to teach children how to worship.
 - to celebrate our successes as a family

2 Collective worship

- 2.1 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. We expect everyone to take an active part in the assembly.
- 2.2 In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act, which states that collective worship should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character', we normally base our collective worship on the teachings of Christ and traditions of the Christian Church. However, we conduct our collective worship in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs of all members of the school.
- 2.3 While the majority of acts of worship in our school are Christian, we also hold collective worship that reflects other religious traditions that may be represented in the school, wider community and world.

3 Organization of collective worship

- 3.1 We hold a daily act of collective worship in our school. This forms part of each daily assembly, which is normally a whole-school assembly.
- 3.2 We conduct collective worship in a dignified and respectful way. We tell children that collective worship time is 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 teachings and participate fully in prayer and hymns. We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music and a candle or other objects that act as a focal point for the attention of the children.
- 3.3 The head teacher or other members of staff normally conduct collective worship, but our local vicar or other representatives of local churches will visit the school once a week to conduct them instead.

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- 3.4** We take the themes of our collective worship from the traditions of the Christian faith and we reflect the festivals and events of the Christian calendar as well as linking our collective worship to our SEAL themes each term wherever possible. Sometimes the themes of our collective worship reflect and build on topics that we teach as part of the school curriculum. We plan our collective worship as part of a series of themes well in advance of the day they take place. Our Christian Values are celebrated throughout the year and form part of our planning for collective worship. Our values are Respect, Friendship, Hope, Wisdom, Dignity and Peace.
- 3.5** Our collective worship reflects the achievements and learning of the children. We encourage the children to participate in collective worship by joining in with our themes by asking and answering questions, taking part in role play, singing songs or reading and by showing their work to the other children and raising issues that they have discussed in their classes (usually during Thursday's Celebration Assembly). Collective worship offers an opportunity to acknowledge and reward children for their achievements both in and out of schools. They play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school, which is that all children are valued and all achievements are recognised. Great Ponton CE Primary School is a successful school and we shall celebrate the successes of all the children in collective worship. Celebrations of birthdays, special awards/achievements as well as listening to 'nominations' for good behaviour, attitude and attitude at school all form part of our weekly collective worship.
- 3.6** We invite parents to collective worship on a weekly basis (Mondays) and we encourage them to attend, as 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.
- 3.7** We welcome governors' attendance at our collective worship at any time.

4 Right of withdrawal

- 4.1** We expect all children to attend collective worship. However, any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from attending religious worship and the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during the period concerned. Parents do not have to explain or give reasons for this. This complies with the 1944 Education Act and was restated in the 1988 Education Reform Act.
- 4.2** The head teacher keeps a record of all children who withdraw from collective worship.

5 Monitoring and review

- 5.1** 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 head teacher for feedback and evaluation on the use of Collective Worship in the school.