



Great Bedwyn C. E. School

## **Collective Worship Policy**

Date of Last Review:	January 2018
Date to be Reviewed:	January 2020
Review Body:	Progress and Learning Committee
Adopted by:	Full Governing Body February 2018

# Great Bedwyn Church of England Primary School

## Policy ethos statement

Great Bedwyn CE School aims to provide a place where children are supported and developed through our creative curriculum and Christian ethos to become aspirational learners who aim high and recognise learning as a life-long journey that, at times, requires courage and perseverance but is also joyful and rewarding.

We actively promote our Christian values of Love, Forgiveness, Friendship, Courage, Respect and Responsibility and strive to develop each child's spirituality and understanding of the significance of faith within a diverse society.

Through our Christian values, we aim to ensure our children are caring and confident and by exploring examples from the Bible, can recognise the important contributions they each make to the life of the School, the community and wider society.

Underpinning all that we do is a shared respect for our Christian values which are highly valued and sit at the heart of our school. Our shared Christian values guide us in our daily lives and provide us with the spiritual lift to live our lives to the full. In our visions and values image of the Great Bedwyn Hot Air Balloon, the flames represent our Christian values and both literally and metaphorically are central to the happy life of the school.



## **Collective Worship Policy**

***‘Draw near to God and he will draw near to you...’*** (James 4:8)

### **1. Rationale**

The 1998 Education Act requires all schools to provide a daily act of worship for all children. This may be a single act for all pupils or separate acts for pupils in different age groups. The Act also says that worship may be held at any time of day and for different groups of children. For controlled schools, the governing body in consultation with the Headteacher determines the character of collective worship which must be in line with the school’s Trust Deed and foundation. The law requires that worship takes into consideration the age, aptitude and family backgrounds of all our children.

### **2. Background**

Great Bedwyn School is a village school and its purpose is to serve the local rural community. Although we are a Church of England school, our children come from a range of backgrounds and we recognise that they include children and families of other faiths and those of none.

### **3. Aims and Values**

At Great Bedwyn C of E Primary School, we believe that Collective Worship plays a very important role in the life of our school. It is an opportunity to promote the Christian foundation of our school, to celebrate and support all aspects of school life and to provide time for stillness and reflection in what is often a very busy, active day for our children. We recognise that in our school there may be children from a variety of faith traditions, including those who have no faith background at all. Great care and sensitivity will be taken to ensure that all our children feel valued and special.

We aim to educate all children to develop to their full potential through high expectations and within a Christian environment. As a Christian school, we give everyone the opportunity to acquire the skills, knowledge and confidence to choose their own beliefs and approaches which guide them through life’s journey.

We seek to ensure that:

- We celebrate everybody’s achievements to nurture confidence.
- We stimulate and encourage learning in a safe environment.
- We recognise talents, strengths and potential in everyone.
- We involve our whole community, especially parents and carers, in ensuring children become well-rounded, confident and happy learners and citizens.
- We live out and demonstrate Christian values and promote spiritual well being as outlined in our visions and values statement and image.

- We develop each child's unique personal and learning attributes.
- We provide outstanding educational experiences for all.

One of the school's main aims is to promote the spiritual, moral and cultural development of our children. Through worship and Biblical teaching, we reaffirm the Christian ethos of the school.

#### 4. The Character of Collective Worship

In our daily acts of Worship we promote our aims by:

- Contributing to children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.
- Regularly including Biblical material and Christian teaching which explores and relates to the schools core Christian values
- Contributing to children's understanding of the nature of God as revealed in the person of Jesus Christ and present in our lives as the Holy Spirit.
- Providing opportunities for stillness, reflection and development of individuals' thoughts and beliefs.
- Preparing children for future opportunities and the responsibilities of life.

Our acts of Worship are distinctively Christian. Children are given opportunities to learn about Christian beliefs and festivals, the importance of Jesus in Christianity, to listen to and share in Christian prayers and to come together and rejoice through song. Through Collective Worship we help them learn about important times in the Church year and raise awareness of beliefs and practices of the Church of England. However, our Worship is also about reflecting and thinking about issues in daily life. We also recognise that Collective Worship should be an experience that does not offend the integrity of the non-religious or those of different faith.

Children say Grace and an end of the day prayer or pause for thought in their classrooms and teachers build in time for reflection during the school week. Themes covered in Collective Worship are often developed further within classes during the week.

	Age group	Type	Leader
Monday	Whole school	Termly Christian value and Golden Leaves	Headteacher
Tuesday	Whole school	Termly Christian value	Open the Book team or the Vicar
Wednesday	Whole school	Sing and Praise Worship	Class teachers and music subject leader
Thursday	Whole school	Termly Christian value	Class teachers

Friday	Whole school	Celebration	Headteacher
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Our Open the Book Worships are led by Christian volunteers and also by the local Vicar. In addition, we seek to invite Christian visitors from the wider community to speak to the children.

Classes lead their own class collective worship once in a school year. Parents, governors and the wider community are invited to attend these events.

We also hold Worship and attend services at our local church to celebrate special times in the church calendar. These include Christmas, Harvest and Easter and are often led by different classes. The children take a full and active role in these and parents are invited to join us for worship at these times.

## **5. Planning for Worships and Collective Worship**

There are 6 key Christian values which we assign to the terms of the school year. (Love, Responsibility, Respect, Friendship, Forgiveness and Courage ) These form the theme for each act of Worship during the term and are relevant to Christian festivals and other events within that period. The terms' Worships are planned with the Headteacher, Open the Book team and the local Vicar.

All Worships use the same liturgical features as their foundation:

- Spiritual music playing as the children arrive
- Singing a Christian hymn or song
- Lighting a candle and joining in with a welcome and response. For example the leader may say: Christ the Light of the World is here. The children respond: Lord Jesus shine on us.
- Shared reading of prayers.
- A story or talk relating to the value of the term.
- The chance for quiet reflection led by the worship leader.
- Often a Bible quote linked to the value for the term is also shared.

Children in Years 6 are members of the Worship Council and are responsible for worship duties including: operation of the laptop, ensuring that music is played before, during and after Worship, leading prayers within worship and leading children to and from Worship. In order to ensure that prayers are relevant to the monthly value and to the children's own spiritual needs, it is important that children are given frequent opportunities to reflect and write their own prayers.

The planned themes for Worship may be interrupted by 'happenings' in the school or the world which it is felt are important to address immediately.

## **6. Celebration Worship**

Each Friday afternoon, we hold a Celebration Worship for the whole school. This serves as an opportunity to value all the achievements of our pupils, be they internal or external accomplishments, academic, creative or sporting. The act of Worship will always include an opportunity to sing and pray together.

## **7. Monitoring and evaluation**

As part of the school's monitoring programme it is the role of the Senior Leadership team and governors to monitor individual acts of Collective Worship and feed back to the Full Governing Body. Records are stored electronically on the school system. Formal monitoring should take place three times per year. Monitoring and evaluation of Collective Worship should be on the agenda of the Full Governing Body meeting at least annually. Governors and staff seek to capture pupils thought on collective worship regularly and these are collected in a pupil response book. Staff members discuss Collective Worship at staff meetings as necessary, and this is recorded in staff meeting minutes.