

Gamston Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School

Collective Worship Policy



To be reviewed by LGB every two years	
Date of review	Nov 2019
Date of next review	Nov 2021

1 Ethos Statement

Recognising its historic foundation, Gamston Church of England (Aided) Primary School will preserve and develop its religious character in accordance with the principles of the Church of England and in partnership with the Church of England at parish and diocesan level. The school aims to serve its community by providing the highest quality of education, in which all children are offered the widest possible range of experiences, in an environment which encourages learning and an understanding of the meaning and significance of faith, promoting Christian values through the experiences it offers to all pupils.

2 General Statement and the Statutory Framework

The Education Reform Act 1988 states:

“The educational curriculum should promote the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of the pupils and of society”

A daily act of collective worship is an important means of developing the spiritual and moral aspects of school life. The daily act of worship at Gamston School will, generally, be Christian in nature, aiming to provide pupils with an opportunity to worship Christ, to consider spiritual and moral issues and to explore their own beliefs. Collective Worship should promote a common ethos and shared values as well as reinforce positive attitudes. However, it is important to consider that a proportion of our children come from other faith backgrounds. With this in mind, significant festivals of other faith communities will be acknowledged as appropriate.

The Education Reform Act 1988 requires that every maintained school includes provision for a daily act of worship. As Gamston School is a Voluntary Aided school, the arrangements for a daily act of worship are the responsibility of the Governing Body in consultation with the Head Teacher.

The right of parents and carers to withdraw their children from the act of Collective Worship is enshrined in the Education Act (1988). Any parent or carer wishing to exercise this right should let the school know of their decision.

Any child who is withdrawn from Collective Worship will be given appropriate work by the class teacher and should be supervised.

Staff employed by the school may also withdraw from acts of collective worship.

3 A Definition of Collective Worship

Collective worship should reflect something special or separate from ordinary school activities and should be concerned with reverence or veneration paid to a divine being or power. School worship is different in character to worship amongst groups with beliefs in common, hence the use of the word “collective” rather than “corporate”.

Ideally, the act of worship should encompass all aspects of school life and all areas of the curriculum so that all who take part may feel involved. It both reflects and nurtures the ethos of the school. In particular, Collective Worship should help to develop a feeling of belonging to a community, which we consider to be essential to personal development.

4 Aims

Through the daily act of collective worship we aim to:

- reflect the school's Church of England foundation in a tangible way;
- provide an opportunity for thought, prayer, reflection and celebration in a caring atmosphere; through this, children learn about and are nurtured in the Christian faith;
- create a sense of school identity and of belonging to a school community which shares common experiences;
- encompass all aspects of school life, all curriculum areas and reflect the school's ethos
- show children that we are members of a wider community, both local and global;
- encourage care and concern for others in society and for the natural world;
- help children think about a wide variety of ideas including the spiritual, ritual, wonderful, joyful, tragic, sorrowful, solemn and humorous!

5 Strategies and Approaches

In acts of worship we should ensure that:

- the purpose of the act of worship is clear to all present;
- themes are developed effectively on a half-termly, weekly or daily basis;
- artefacts, visual aids or other foci of interest are used where appropriate;
- opportunities are given for prayer, reflection and quiet;
- the occasion engenders an atmosphere conducive to worship;
- there is a balance between music, speech and silence;
- children are actively involved as much as possible;
- subject matter is appropriate to the age and experience of children;
- visitors, governors and parents are welcome to attend on a variety of occasions;
- links with our parish church at All Saints', Eaton are maintained and strengthened;
- children and adults take away something to reflect upon and take into their daily lives.

6 Guidelines to Collective Worship at Gamston School

The Act of Collective Worship at our school, although flexible and varied according to the leader, usually has five key elements:

- music
- a hymn
- a story/reading/poem/fable/parable/play/sketch etc
- a prayer
- time for reflection

Music should be playing as the children come into Collective Worship and as they leave. The composer and title of the music should be displayed for all the children and adults to see. The music may or may not relate directly to the theme of the service.

The **Hymn** or song is usually included and may or may not be related to the theme.

The **story** or **parable** etc, is generally the central part of the service and is usually based on a theme planned by the leader and based on the school's Collective Worship Termly Plan. This central activity will usually contain one or more of the elements suggested in Strategies and Approaches, above.

The **prayer** is an important part of Collective Worship and may include, be preceded or followed by, a period of **quiet reflection**.

Collective Worship will usually be led by a different teacher each day. All teachers lead the act of worship on their set day each week. Worship will also be led by the parish vicar, Revd Cora Yarrien.

The Friday service is our Special Mentions service which includes a celebration of pupils' or adults' successes and achievements during that particular week.

From time to time and as judged appropriate by the Head Teacher or teachers, guests are invited to lead Collective Worship.

Collective Worship normally takes place in school.

7 Monitoring and Evaluation

The monitoring and evaluation of this policy is the joint responsibility of the RE Co-ordinator and the Head Teacher with advice and guidance from the governor with a special interest in RE and Christian Distinctiveness. The monitoring and evaluation of acts of Collective Worship can be undertaken by:

- discussing with staff and children as to the relevance and impact of acts of worship;
- observing and participating in acts of worship in order to assess children's involvement in, responses to as well as the appropriateness of, the content and the presentation;
- identifying any relevant training needs amongst staff;
- monitoring and developing resources;
- checking that appropriate opportunities are taken which raise multicultural, equal opportunities and gender issues
- ensuring that the legal requirements for collective worship are being met.

8 Roles and Responsibilities

The Governing Body has a duty to monitor and evaluate RE and Collective Worship throughout the school. The RE Co-ordinator and the Head Teacher both play leading roles in organising and managing RE and Collective Worship. They also take a lead in producing the

