



Collective Worship Policy

September 2020
Date for Next Revision – September 2021

Collective Worship Policy

“Working together for each child to realise their God-given potential to flourish”

Rationale

The Trust understands worship to be a special act or occasion, the purpose of which is to show reverence to God. Collective worship involves pupils and staff coming together and participating in a daily gathering. In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act which states that collective worship should be “wholly or broadly of a Christian character”, collective worship in our academies is based on the teachings of Christ and traditions of the Christian Church. However, we aim to conduct our collective worship in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs of all members of the academy.

Collective worship contributes significantly to the ethos of the Trust and it is our aim that it is a time when the academy community can:

- Share common aims and values;
- Celebrate achievement and special times;
- Explore together the world in which we live;
- Develop a community spirit.

Aims for Collective Worship

The aims and purpose of collective worship are:

- To provide an opportunity for the pupils and academy community to worship God;
- To enable the pupils and academy community to consider spiritual and moral issues;
- To enable the pupils and adults to explore their own beliefs;
- To encourage participation and response;
- To develop in pupils a sense of community spirit;
- To promote a common ethos with shared values and to reinforce positive attitudes;
- To introduce different ways of worshipping.

For further details of an individual academy’s aims and purpose of collective worship – see *Appendix 1*.

Practicalities of Organisation

Our academies hold a daily act of collective worship.

For academy specific details – see *Appendix 1*.

Content

A plan of themes is produced annually reflecting the values an academy has chosen. Our academies also consider and reflect on the festivals and special times of the Christian calendar.

For academy specific details – see *Appendix 1*.

Resources

For details of resources individual academies use – see *Appendix 1*.

Evaluation, Monitoring and Review

It is the role of the Academy Governance Committee (AGC) to monitor the policy and practice of collective worship. As part of this, pupil interviews are carried out / pupil evaluation forms are reviewed.

Any academy specific details in relation to evaluation, monitoring and review are set out in *Appendix 1*.

Right of Withdrawal

As our academies are Church academies, we expect all pupils to attend collective worship, and we discuss this with parents / carers at the time of admission. However, any parent / carer can request permission for their child to be excused from attending religious worship and the academy will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the pupil during the period concerned. Parents / carers do not have to explain or give reasons for this. This complies with current legislation. The Headteacher keeps a record of any pupils who are withdrawn from collective worship.

Appendix 1

Name of Academy: Great Addington CE Primary School

Academy specific details

'Our love should not be just words and talk; it must be true love, which shows itself in action'.
(1 John 3:18)

Great Addington Primary is a family community where everyone learns to love and is truly valued. Each unique individual makes a valuable contribution to the school and collectively, as courageous advocates, promote positive change in our villages and global community. Together we flourish through enriching experiences, mutual encouragement and outstanding teaching.

Aims for Collective Worship

In addition to the aims already stated, at Great Addington Primary School Collective Worship is *central to the life and work of our school. We provide an opportunity for pupils and staff to worship in a traditional Christian style, which is consistent with the beliefs and practices of the Church of England.*

Because of our vision, Collective Worship is at the heart of our life and work, showing how God's love was not just words and talk, but true love shown in his actions.

Practicalities of Organisation

Our daily act of Collective Worship forms part of each morning assembly. The format for these is agreed annually and an example is in Appendix 2.

We conduct Collective Worship in a dignified and respectful way. We tell pupils that worship time is special thinking time for calm reflection. We regard it as a special time and expect them to behave in an appropriate way. We ask them to be quiet and thoughtful and to listen carefully to the teaching. We invite them to participate in prayer and songs. We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music and a cross and candle that acts as a focal point for the attention of the pupils. Our altar table is always dressed in accordance with the colours of the liturgical seasons

The themes of our Assemblies last for a week and are planned collectively. We plan Assemblies for the whole term in advance and they are planned over a two year cycle. We take the themes of our Assemblies from the traditions of the Christian faith and we reflect the Festivals and events of the Christian calendar. We also follow Roots and Fruits Creative Collective Worship Programme on Christian Values themes.

When the school meets together for whole school acts of worship, these take place in the Hall at 11.45 am.

Monday	Whole School Assembly led by Parish Priest
Tuesday	Whole School Assembly led by Deputy Headteacher
Wednesday	Whole School Choral Assembly led by Music Teacher and Headteacher
Thursday	Key Stage Assemblies
Friday	Whole School Assembly led by Head or visitors from local churches, School Christian Assembly Team, a Charity Organisation or Sharing Assembly led by pupils. The School Achievement Certificate is presented weekly at this Assembly.

Special Services are held in All Saints or St. Mary's Church to celebrate Harvest, Remembrance, Christmas, Easter and the end of the School Year.

All members of staff are encouraged to take a full and active part in the Whole School Assemblies.

A period of twenty minutes is allocated for assembly from the time children begin to arrive in the hall, to the time that they have left.

Children and adults are expected to enter the hall in silence, and remain standing until after the greeting, 'The Lord Be With You' (or similar).

Other opportunities for prayer and reflection are given at lunchtimes and in classes at the end of each academy day.

Content

We hold Collective Worship that reflects the achievements and learning of the pupils. We encourage the pupils to participate in Collective Worship by showing their work to others and sharing issues that they have discussed in their classes. Collective Worship offers an opportunity to acknowledge and reward pupils for their achievements both in and out of the Academy. They play an important part in promoting the ethos of the Academy, which is that all pupils are valued and all achievements recognised.

Resources

A wide variety of assembly stories are stored across the school and the Roots and Fruits Scheme is available for all to access.

Useful websites to be used include:

www.worshipworkshop.co.uk

www.barnabasinschools.org.uk

www.imaginer.co.uk

Appendix 2

- Children and adults enter to reflective music, remaining standing;
 - Candle is lit;
- An image is displayed on the screen to help prepare all for worship;
 - Greeting “The Lord be with you” to which the children respond “and also with you”.
- Children recite the school morning prayer and are then invited to sit down;
 - A relevant hymn/song is sung by all:
- Address by Worship Leader to include participation of pupils across the school;
 - Prayers led by children;
 - Lord’s prayer said by all;
 - Candle is extinguished;
 - Announcements;