

Graveley Primary School

A Church of England (VC) School



Collective Worship Policy

Date of policy	Summer Term 2025
Date ratified by the Governing Board	21/5/2025
Date of next review	Summer Term 2028

Rationale

Our School Vision

Our vision is realised through this policy by the commitment of our school to serve its community by providing an education of the highest quality within the context of Christian belief and practice.

With God, all things are possible.

Matthew 19:26

*Our core Christian values of **Fellowship**, **Creativity** and **Harmony** shape
Graveley School.*

*Everyone is encouraged to become the **BEST** version of themselves: following the wisdom
and example of **Jesus**, through life's **joys**, **storms** and **uncertainties**.*

*We want children to leave with their understanding deepened, minds enriched and hearts
inspired.*

The importance and centrality of worship contribute powerfully to the spiritual development of all our pupils. The school encourages an understanding of the meaning and significance of faith and promotes Christian values through the experience it offers to all its pupils.

Legal Requirements for Collective Worship in Voluntary Schools (From Hertfordshire SACRE:
Collective Worship Guidance: Jan 2020)

- DFES Circular 1/94 contains the current requirement for a daily act of collective worship, the majority of which should be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character that is 'reflecting the broad traditions of Christian belief' without being denominationally biased. (cf Education Reform Act 1988). However, headteachers must take into account the pupils ages aptitudes and family backgrounds.
- This must be provided for all registered pupils of compulsory school age or above. The term 'registered pupils' includes those in the sixth form but not pupils in nursery schools or classes.
- The act of collective worship can take place at any time during the school day and with any grouping of pupils the school wishes to use (though not faith groupings).
- Parents in all schools have a legal right to withdraw their children wholly or partly from collective worship.
- The Education and Inspection Act 2006 makes provision for pupils in post-16 education to exercise the right to withdraw themselves from the daily act of collective worship.

1. Aims

Collective Worship at Graveley is a daily opportunity for the school community to draw together and have a period of time to reflect, question and share.

As a Church of England School our aims for Collective Worship is that it should be **'Inclusive, Invitational and Inspiring.'**

Inclusive

Our Collective Worship is collective, not corporate as we recognise that our school community is a collection of people embracing a great variety of beliefs, faith and non-faith backgrounds.

We offer the opportunity. Through questions, exploration of values and themes, for those who have already developed a growing Christian commitment, a place where their thoughts and emotions can be expressed. For others the experience of worship will be tentative and exploratory, whilst those without a religious commitment, Collective Worship is offered as a space to appreciate what worship means for others and have a space for personal reflections.

We aim to:

- Help pupils and adults to appreciate the relevance of faith in today's world by encountering the teachings of Jesus and the Bible
- Develop the children's understanding of the Christian belief.
- Acknowledge the things which have meaning, value and purpose for the pupils as individuals, as well as for the school and the wider community.
- Foster a sense of community and unity in the school and in the community beyond it and celebrate achievements, special occasions and special events in relation to individual pupils within school, to the school as a whole, or to the wider community and to
- Enable the children to bring serious events in their lives e.g. bereavement and moving-on and we celebrate the uniqueness and specialness of each individual.

Invitational

We aim to:

- Offer worship which provides the opportunity to engage whilst allowing the freedom of those of different faiths and those who profess no religious faith to be present and to engage with integrity.
- Invite the children and adults to join in with prayers, quiet periods of reflection and stillness and singing so that they may understand the themes and ideas being explored.
- Allow children opportunities to experience and appreciate the use of symbolism and religious language to express feelings and belief.
- Offer opportunities for the children to take part in significant celebrations on the Christian calendar.

Inspiring

- Establish, explore and reinforce our school vision and help our children understand its relevance to the life they lead.
- Explore half-termly values, linking them to Christian beliefs and make them relatable to the children's own experiences.

In accordance with statutory requirements, at Graveley Primary School collective worship is placed at the centre of the school's daily life. We provide daily collective daily worship for all registered pupils, unless permission has been asked by parents or them to be withdrawn. Worship is generally organised on a whole school basis and is led by staff, visitors and of course the pupils themselves.

2. Planning Collective Worship

- The deputy headteacher will produce a termly Worship Plan including an indication of the subject focus of each Collective Worship experience.
- Themes for worship will be chosen reflecting a wide variety of approaches. They will celebrate seasonal festivals and changes, consider our shared core values of Fellowship, Creativity and Harmony and the linked values underpinning these.
- When appropriate, Collective Worship will engage with any event, local, national or world, of which the children may be aware, and offer appropriate worship in response. There is room for spontaneity.
- The Vicar at St Mary's Church in Graveley parish will lead Collective Worship on a monthly basis. There is a 3 year plan that teaches of the life of Jesus and the Church's seasons.
- From time to time, it may be suitable for visitors representing charities, organisations or projects to lead or contribute to Collective Worship.
- Collective Worship is non-curriculum time and should connect with, and reinforce, the curriculum but not be constrained by it.
- Children will not be passive but will be encouraged to participate in appropriate ways. On some occasions, pupils or classes will lead the act of worship.
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Collective worship at Graveley will provide opportunities for pupils to explore the spiritual dimension of the world. Therefore acts of worship may include:

- A range of starting points and stimuli e.g. Bible stories, pictures, prayers, songs, music, symbols and artefacts
- Expressions of thankfulness, praise and joy
- Feelings of sadness, compassion and loss if appropriate
- Opportunities for calm and reflection
- Stillness as well as words
- Opportunities to explore ethical and moral questions. There will be room for questions and answers, particularly within the more intimate environment of the classroom

Our Collective Worship follows a set pattern:

Monday	A leading values assembly
Tuesday	Picture News - Children discuss news stories in a Christian context and develop their spirituality.
Wednesday	Songs and worship
Thursday	Bible Story
Friday	Celebration – curriculum and extra-curricular awards are celebrated.

Reception children attend Collective Worship once they have settled in the Autumn term.

3. Monitoring and Evaluation

Our team of 'Collectives' evaluate Collective worship on a rota system generated by the Collective Ambassador. The evaluation involves discussion on the theme, what was beneficial and suggestions for the future. This is monitored by the lead teacher for Collective worship. The Head Teacher will report to the Governing board who will review this policy every three years.

APPENDIX 1

Core Christian Values

Term	Overarching Value	Value	Biblical Reference
Year A			
Autumn 1	Creativity	Enthusiasm	Ephesians 6:7 – 17 Work with enthusiasm, as though you are working for the Lord rather than for people.
Autumn 2	Creativity	Perseverance	Hebrews 12:1-2 Let us run with perseverance the race that lies before us, with our eyes fixed on Jesus.
Spring 1	Fellowship	Hope	Romans 15:13 May the God of hope fill you with joy and peace so that you may share this hope with others.
Spring 2	Fellowship	Appreciation	1 Thessalonians 5:16 Always be thankful.
Summer 1	Harmony	Patience	Ephesians 4:2 Be humble and gentle, be patient bearing with one another in love.
Summer 2	Harmony	Caring	Galatians 6:9-10 Let us not grow weary of doing good, let us do good to everyone.
Year B			
Autumn 1	Creativity	Freedom	2 Corinthians 3:17 Where the spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.
Autumn 2	Creativity	Resilience	Philippians 4:13 I can do all this through Him, who gives me strength.
Spring 1	Fellowship	Friendship	1 Thessalonians 5:11 Encourage one another and build each other up.
Spring 2	Fellowship	Compassion	Colossians 3:12 Clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.
Summer 1	Harmony	Peace	Jude 1:2 May you show mercy, peace and love to all around you.
Summer 2	Harmony	Trust	Psalm 18:2 My God is my strength in whom I trust.