



Collective Worship Policy

May 2021

Approved by the Governing Body Strategy Group 27/05/21

**This Policy is due for renewal in Term 5
2022–23**

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

OF

GODINTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

SECTION 1 – INTRODUCTION

The daily act of collective worship at Godinton Primary School plays a central role in our life and work. It provides us with valuable opportunities to reaffirm our values and ethos. It offers important opportunities to strengthen our sense of community, belonging and inclusiveness and to reinforce the respect and care we have for each other. Through collective worship we make a contribution to the religious, spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of those present. We want all our children people to ‘enjoy and achieve’ and collective worship provides a valuable vehicle for this.

SECTION 2 – AIMS

- ♦ to provide our children with a range of opportunities to worship God (however defined or understood) and experience a variety of styles of worship;
- ♦ to give our children opportunities to reflect on the significance of Christian (and other faith traditions’) stories, events and festivals and how these might affect their lives and to reflect on stories which relate to wider values.
- ♦ to offer experiences and opportunities for children to join in with and respond to a variety of forms of collective worship in order for them to reflect on the significance of their own and others’ beliefs;
- ♦ to promote our shared values and contribute to our common life together by celebrating individual achievement, school achievement and wider community achievement within the context of collective worship.
- ♦ build a sense of community/foster corporate identity;

These aims mean that our collective worship programme is such that we can include all our school community.

SECTION 3 – COLLECTIVE WORSHIP AND THE LAW

We comply with legal requirements by providing a daily act of collective worship for all children on the school roll, unless they have been withdrawn by their parents / carers ‘on grounds of conscience’. Teachers also have the right not to attend or lead an act of collective worship ‘on grounds of conscience’. The majority of our acts of collective worship are ‘wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character’ whilst recognising the religious, spiritual, moral, social and cultural insights provided by other principal religions

and life-stances represented in Kent and in Great Britain.

SECTION 4 – COLLECTIVE WORSHIP AND PARENTS AND CARERS

We emphasise the importance of our collective worship programme in developing our school's ethos and values and in providing a range of opportunities for children people to consider important issues for life and living. Parents / carers do however have the right to withdraw their child(ren) from the daily act of collective worship. This is made clear through the information contained in our parents' handbook.

Parents / carers who wish to consider withdrawing their child(ren) are asked to discuss this with the Headteacher and to complete a form indicating their wishes regarding their child's participation in acts of collective worship and festival celebration e.g participation in Christmas activities. If a child is withdrawn from collective worship they are supervised by an adult outside of the hall and are reintegrated for any notices or presentations.

SECTION 5 – COLLECTIVE WORSHIP AND STAFF

Teachers (and sometimes teaching assistants/supervisors) attend collective worship with their class at least twice a week. Each class prepares and leads an act of collective worship (either for the whole school or for a Key Stage) once a year. If, however, individual members of staff feel their own beliefs might be compromised by our programme of collective worship they can discuss this with the Headteacher, since they do have the legal right not to attend collective worship 'on grounds of conscience'. Currently no teaching staff withdraw themselves from collective worship.

SECTION 6 – COLLECTIVE WORSHIP ORGANISATION

We hold acts of collective worship every day. This is organised as follows:

Monday – Whole school collective worship (led by Headteacher)

Tuesday – Lower / Middle and Upper school singing assemblies with integrated aspects of collective worship

Wednesday – Whole school collective worship (led by one of the Assistant Headteachers)

Thursday – Lower / Middle and Upper school celebration assemblies with integrated aspects of collective worship

Friday – Whole school collective worship led by different classes or a member of the Senior Management Team.

The themes for assemblies on Mondays and Wednesdays are decided by the Senior Management Team and link with our STAR values. We aim to ensure that this links with

hymns being sung in the Wednesday singing assembly. On Thursday different members of staff will lead the collective worship and link this to the celebrations in the assembly. Classes choose their own content for the assemblies which they present to the school.

Birthdays are celebrated in the Lower and Middle School celebration assemblies.

It is the responsibility of staff leading the act of collective worship to ensure that the content and form of delivery is accessible for all those present. Collective worship leaders ensure that over time the following opportunities are provided for:

- Use of the Bible and other sacred texts as a source for stories and teachings, emphasising common themes and ensuring the inclusiveness of the school community is reinforced.
- Moral tales/teachings and contemporary situations may also be drawn on where appropriate;
- Marking of appropriate festivals and other significant days;
- Addressing British Values

Children in the Foundation stage are appropriately integrated into participation in acts of collective worship as part of their gradual introduction to school routines.

SECTION 7 – ACTS OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

- ♦ We aim to create an atmosphere of stillness and calm during assemblies. To aid this, appropriate music is played for entry and exit from the hall. If someone leading collective worship wants a particular piece of music then that can usually be arranged through the Music subject leader;
- ♦ The usual format consists of an input from the leader, an appropriate hymn or song, followed by a time of prayer and/or quiet reflection. Leaders are encouraged to actively engage pupils/students through for example questioning and drama;
- ♦ The act of collective worship is kept separate from any notices or other items which may be included in this assembly time;
- ♦ Visitors may be invited from time to time to lead one of our whole school acts of collective worship such as ministers from the local church or representatives from charities;
- ♦ The assembly, including the act of collective worship, usually takes 20 minutes altogether.

SECTION 8 – USE OF VISITORS AND VISITS

The Assistant Headteacher is responsible for liaising with any visitors who come into school to lead collective worship. Practical arrangements such as timing, age range of audience and appropriate content are agreed through discussion. By drawing on people

from the local community to lead acts of collective worship we enhance community cohesion. Visitors to school include representatives from churches in Ashford who lead assemblies at harvest and Easter in particular.

Upper School currently host their annual carol service at St Mary's Church in Great Chart.

SECTION 9 – RESOURCES

A range of resources, including books and DVDs, is available to support teachers and pupils with collective worship and is situated in the Headteacher's office.

SECTION 10 – CHILDREN IN CARE

As for all our pupils, Godinton Primary School is committed to helping every Child in Care (CIC) to achieve the highest standards they can. To this end staff will ensure that in delivering the curriculum they set suitable learning challenges of CIC, respond to the diverse learning needs of CIC, and help to overcome the potential barriers to learning and assessment for CIC.

SECTION 11 – IMPLEMENTATION, MONITORING AND REVIEW

Monitoring the standards of acts of collective worship is the responsibility of the Headteacher. Support where appropriate will be provided for staff in the delivery of aspects of collective worship, being informed about current developments in the area, and providing a strategic lead and direction for collective worship in the school.

Collective worship will challenge stereotypes, misinformation and misconceptions about race, ethnicity, religion and gender. During collective worship, religions will be presented fairly and accurately and diversity and equality will be affirmed.

All our school policies have an explicit aim of promoting equality and will be reviewed in terms of their contribution and effectiveness in achieving this aim.

This policy is reviewed every two years.

SECTION 12 – EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

At Godinton Primary School, we are committed to ensuring equality of opportunity for all members of our school community irrespective of race, religion or belief, gender, gender reassignment, disability, sexual orientation, age, pregnancy or maternity, marriage and civil partnership or socio-economic background. We are determined to develop a culture of inclusion and diversity in which all those connected to the school feel proud of their identity and ability to participate fully in school life.

We tackle discrimination through the positive promotion of equality by challenging stereotypes and by creating an environment that champions respect for all. At Godinton Primary School, we believe that diversity is a strength that should be respected and celebrated by all those who learn, teach and visit us.

All school policies have an explicit aim of promoting equality and will be reviewed in terms of their contribution and effectiveness in achieving this aim.