



Collective Worship Policy

May 2025

Approved by the Governing Body Strategy Group 21/05/25

**This Policy is due for renewal in Term 5
2027–28**

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

OF

GODINTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

SECTION ONE – 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 to ‘enjoy and achieve’ and collective worship provides a valuable vehicle for this.

SECTION TWO – 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 THREE – 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requirements by providing a daily act of collective worship for all children on the school roll, unless they have been withdrawn by their parents / carers ‘on grounds of conscience’.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 FOUR – 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 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 FIVE – 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'.

SECTION SIX – COLLECTIVE WORSHIP ORGANISATION

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

Monday

- Upper or Middle school collective worship led by Headteacher / Class Assembly planned by team leaders. Class assembly or Headteacher assembly alternates each week.

Tuesday

- Upper school collective worship led by one of the Assistant Headteacher
- Lower/ Middle School Singing Assembly with integrated aspects of collective worship

Wednesday

- Lower/Middle School Collective worship led by one of the Assistant Head Teacher
- Upper School Singing Assembly with integrated aspects of collective worshi

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, Tuesdays and Wednesdays are decided by the Senior Management Team and link with our STAR values, key religious festivals of all faiths studied in school, black culture, multi-cultural stories, current affairs, Christian bible stories. They follow a two year rolling programme. 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.

Themes for assemblies are attached as Appendix 1.

Religious festivals form the focus for some assemblies. An example of how these are explored in assemblies throughout the school calendar is attached as appendix 2. This is reviewed each year as some religious festivals do not have a set date.

Children's 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 SEVEN – 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 when suitable, 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 EIGHT – 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 NINE – 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. Resources are sourced from a range of areas in order to meet the requirements of the rolling programme for assemblies which ensure a broad and balanced range of topics for collective worship.

SECTION TEN – 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 ELEVEN – 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.

SECTION TWELVE– 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.

APPENDIX 1 – TWO YEAR ROLLING PROGRAMME OF ASSEMBLY THEMES

YEAR 1 Christian Bible stories for 1 week of Assemblies each term Charanga Music Assembly Performance and Class Assemblies during each term.	
TERM	ASSEMBLY THEME
1	Topical Event Bible Stories Current Affairs Key Religious Festivals (see separate two year plan) Black Culture Charanga Music Performance Assembly
2	Diversity – Celebrating difference Bible Stories Current Affairs Key Religious Festivals (see separate two year plan)
3	British Values: Individual Liberty –The rights of people to live how they choose, Courage, Democracy – right to vote, government etc., Rule of Law – working hard to follow rules and law,Tolerance Bible Stories Current Affairs Key Religious Festivals (see separate two year plan) Charanga Music Performance Assembly
4	People Who help us Bible Stories Current Affairs Key Religious Festivals (see separate two year plan)
5	Stories from other cultures – Africa, Caribbean, Native Indian Bible Stories Current Affairs Key Religious Festivals (see separate two year plan) Charanga Music Performance Assembly
6	Change, Transition and Moving on Bible Stories Current Affairs Key Religious Festivals (see separate two year plan)

YEAR 2 Christian Bible stories for 1 week of Assemblies each term Charanga Music Assembly Performance and Class Assemblies during each term.	
TERM	ASSEMBLY THEME
1	Black Culture Growth Mindset and Personal Development Bible Stories Current Affairs Key Religious Festivals (see separate two year plan) Charanga Music Performance Assembly
2	Celebrating our Goals and overcoming adversity (resilience, perseverance = Success) Bible Stories Current Affairs Key Religious Festivals (see separate two year plan)
3	British Values: Individual Liberty – Human rights for all to be respected and protected, Respect and Tolerance between faiths and beliefs, Democracy – freedom and equality, Rule of law – rules should be fair and help everyone to live safely. Bible Stories Current Affairs Key Religious Festivals (see separate two year plan) Charanga Music Performance Assembly
4	Godinton Star Values and Guiding Stars Bible Stories Current Affairs Key Religious Festivals (see separate two year plan)
5	Godinton Star Values and Guiding Stars Contd. Stories from other cultures – Asia, Nepal, Europe Bible Stories Current Affairs Key Religious Festivals (see separate two year plan) Charanga Music Performance Assembly
6	New experiences and hopes for the future What are we grateful for? Bible Stories Current Affairs Key Religious Festivals (see separate two year plan)

APPENDIX 2 – TWO YEAR ROLLING PROGRAMME FOR RELIGIOUS FESTIVAL COVERAGE (EXAMPLE AS SOME FESTIVALS DO NOT HAVE A SET DATE)

YEAR 1		
Christian Bible stories for 1 week of Assemblies each term and specific assembly focuses		
TERM	FESTIVAL	RELIGION
1	Rosh Hashanah Yom Kippur Harvest Festival	Jewish Jewish Christian
2	Diwali Christmas Advent	Hindu Christian Christian
3	Lailat al-Isra wa-L-Mi'raj (Prophets Ascension)	Islam
4	Pesach (Passover) Easter Beginning of Lent – Pancake Day Vaisakhi (Sikh New year)	Jewish Christian Christian Sikh
5	Eid al – Fitr	Islam
6	Hajj	Islam

YEAR 2		
Christian Bible stories for 1 week of Assemblies each term and specific assembly focuses		
TERM	FESTIVAL	RELIGION
1	Succot Navaratri Harvest Festival	Jewish Hindu Christian
2	Birthday of Guru Nanak Hannukah Christmas Advent around the world	Sikh Jewish Christian
3	Holi Purim	Hindu Jewish
4	Easter Palm Sunday Ramadan	Christian Christian Islam
5	Eid al – Adha (Feast of Sacrifice)	Islam
6	Al-Hijra (Islamic New Year)	Islam