

Grendon CE Primary School

Collective Worship Policy

1 Aims and purpose

The aims and purpose of collective worship are:

- to provide an opportunity for the children to worship God;
- to enable children to consider spiritual and moral issues;
- to enable children to explore their own beliefs;
- to encourage participation and response;
- to develop in children a sense of community spirit;
- to promote a common ethos with shared values and to reinforce positive attitudes;
- to teach children how to worship.

2 Church of England: Vision For Education

Our School reflects the Church of England's Vision For Education and embraces the spiritual, physical, intellectual, emotional, moral and social development of pupils. The school embraces excellence but sets them in a wider framework that includes the four basic elements of:

Educating for Wisdom

Our school fosters confidence and discipline in seeking wisdom, knowledge, truth, understanding and the skills needed to shape life well. Academic achievement, emotional intelligence and creativity across the whole range of school subjects is carefully nurtured, as is the need to understand and practise the characteristics required to be a good person.

Educating for Hope

How children learn to approach the future is crucial. Our school opens up horizons of hope and aspiration, and guides pupils into ways of fulfilling them. Pupils are supported to become resilient, honest, generous, compassionate, determined and forgiving in their life journey.

Educating for Community

Pupils are inextricably involved in the lives of others and are expected to fulfil their responsibility towards them and to contribute to their communities, both locally and further afield. Our school focuses on the development of relationships and the qualities of character that enable people to flourish together.

Educating for Dignity

The basic principle of dignity is prioritised to the extent that every member of the school community is treated with respect, differences are celebrated and all are recognised as being equal in the eyes of God.

3 Collective worship

We understand worship to be a special act or occasion whose purpose is to show reverence to God. Collective worship involves all members of the school coming together and participating in an assembly.

In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act, which states that collective worship should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character', we normally base our assemblies on the teachings of Christ and traditions of the Christian Church. However, we conduct our assemblies in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs of all members of the school.

While the majority of acts of worship in our school are Christian, we also hold assemblies that reflect other religious traditions from major faiths.

4 Organisation of Collective Worship

We hold a daily act of collective worship in our school and often hold assemblies in church.

We conduct assemblies in a dignified and respectful way. We tell children that assembly time is a period of calm reflection. We regard it as a special time and expect children to behave in an appropriate way. We ask them to be quiet and thoughtful and to listen carefully to the teachings and participate fully in prayer and hymns. We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music, candles and a cross, which act as a focal point for the attention of the children.

The Head Teacher, teaching staff and local clergy will conduct these assemblies.

We take the themes of our assemblies from one of the six core school values and will include traditions of the Christian faith, events of the Christian calendar and relevant current affairs at a local and global level.

Our assemblies also reflect the achievements and learning of the children both in school and out.

Assemblies play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school, which is that all children are valued and all achievements are recognised.

Occasionally we invite parents to assembly and we encourage them to attend, as this promotes the community spirit of the school and is a practical demonstration of the way the home and the school work together to support the achievements of our children.

We welcome governors' attendance at our assemblies at any time (see Governor Visits Policy for conduct procedures).

Reflection Time is an additional act of Collective Worship which takes place regularly in class and provides an opportunity for children to reflect on the content of whole school assemblies and on issues affecting themselves and others. Prayer boxes in each class contain a range of resources to support the act of Reflection Time.

5 Right of withdrawal

We expect all children to attend assembly. However, any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from attending religious worship and the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during the period concerned. Parents do not have to explain or give reasons for this. This complies with the 1944 Education Act and was restated in the 1988 Education Reform Act.

The Head Teacher keeps a record of all children who withdraw from collective worship.

6 Monitoring and review

It is the role of the Ethos Committee to monitor the policy and practice of collective worship.

The Foundation Governors are involved in the self evaluation process relating to the SIAMS inspection.