



Collective Worship Policy

March 2006
Reviewed: December 2012

1 Introduction

Girton Glebe School is for all pupils and we recognise families' diverse spiritual backgrounds and the right of the pupil to expect respect for his or her particular faith. Collective worship is fundamental to the personal development of our pupils and to the strong sense of community and shared values which we aim to engender in them. We believe that it is an experience to which all can contribute and from which all can gain.

Collective worship is a legally required element of the school day. It should:

- occur daily, but can be at any time of the day
- be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character' and be non-denominational
- be appropriate to the ages, aptitudes and the family background of the pupils

Parents have the right, on religious grounds, to withdraw their children from collective worship. Teachers may also withdraw from collective worship.

2 Aims

Our aims for Collective Worship are as follows:

- to provide an opportunity for pupils to experience worship in which God is the focus
- to nurture spiritual, moral, social and cultural development through experiencing worship
- to provide an opportunity to consider broader aspects of life through reflection and prayer
- to promote a feeling of community in the school through a sharing of values, ethos, experiences and feelings
- to celebrate gifts, talents and achievements
- to encourage respect and care for the world

3 The Conduct of Collective Worship

Daily school assemblies form an important part of the curriculum of our school and cover moral and social issues as well as spiritual ones.

3.1 Planning

Themes are planned over a two-year cycle (see Appendix 1). Care needs to be taken to concentrate on the spiritual elements, not the content of other curriculum areas. Within the planning there is flexibility to:

- celebrate Christian festivals
- explore the religious meaning and significance of, but not participate in, the festivals of other faiths to members of their faith communities
- allow for response to special or sudden events within and beyond the school community.

Collective worship should be planned to ensure coherent delivery of the aims and to record the activities undertaken.

3.2 Range of Activity

Worship will include a balance of a range of activities. These may include, but are not limited to:

- reading or participating in stories, poems, etc
- listening to or making music
- discussion with a partner
- drama activities
- prayer and reflection
- sharing achievements

3.3 Prayer

Each assembly includes a 'quiet thought' in which children are encouraged to listen and think about the focus and invited to join in if they wish. At times children may be invited to join in or listen to Christian prayers.

3.4 Hymns or Songs

Songs are a central part of our collective worship. Songs for our assemblies should be inclusive of the whole school community and care will need to be taken with the choice of words: e.g. *If you're a friend of Jesus you're a friend of mine.*

3.5 Visitors

From time to time visitors will be invited to lead collective worship in our school. They should be made aware of the aims and content of this policy.

4 Policy Review

This policy has been approved by staff and governors and will be reviewed as part of the Governors' Four Year Plan.

Appendix 1 – Assembly Themes

	Year A (2013-14, 2015-16...)	Year B (2012-13, 2014-15...)
Autumn 1	Our Community <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accepting people as they are • Neighbours • Teamwork • Co-operation • Mutual support 	Caring and Sharing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Autumn • Change and decay • Equality • Food • Gifts and giving • Haves and have nots
Autumn 2	The World Around Us <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beauty • Environment • One world • Patterns • Senses 	Giving Thanks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Celebration • Charities • Promises • Special occasions • Thankfulness
Spring 1	Talents <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Achievement • Knowing your limits • Testing our limits • Believing in yourself • Waste • Ourselves 	New Beginnings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creation • Good and evil • Light and darkness • Rights and responsibilities • Saying sorry / second chances • Spring
Spring 2	Faith <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A good example • Bravery • Difference • Famous hymns and prayers • Sacrifice • Prayer 	Messages <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stories • Rules • Signs and symbols • Searching • Ideas about God • Communicating
Summer 1	Important People <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leaders and leadership • Heroes and heroines • Stories by Jesus • Stories of Jesus 	Feelings and Emotions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Being true to myself • Grief and loss • Despair and hope • Love, trust, kindness, happiness • Loneliness • Forgiveness
Summer 2	Reflections on Life <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Silence and reflection • Why are we here? • The world I would like • Looking on the bright side • Destroying and repairing • Peace 	Journeys <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Holding on and letting go • Building bridges • Challenges and choices • Endings • Stepping stones and stumbling blocks