



St Gilbert of Sempringham Church of England Primary School and Nursery

Collective Worship Policy

April 2025

Policy review date: 21 May 2025

Date of next review: May 2026

School Vision Statement

As a welcoming church school, we strive to Sow Seeds and foster pride in all we do. Through an aspirational learning environment, we support our school family to Grow Together so that everyone feels value and motivated to achieve. We Reach High for success at St. Gilbert's and beyond.

Sow Seeds: Grow Together: Reach High

'I am the vine; you are the branches.' (John 15:5)

Church schools serving their communities through excellence, exploration and encouragement within the love of God.

The Diocese of Lincoln is called to faithful worship, confident discipleship and joyful service and our church schools bear witness to our belief that every child is made in the image of God and loved by Him. They were founded for the good of their local communities so that children can be educated through the values and stories of Christianity.

Collective Worship

Collective Worship stated in The Education Regulations 1994 Circular states “that worship should be concerned with reverence or veneration paid to a divine being or power.” This is distinct to an assembly where information and news may be given out. It includes providing the opportunity for pupils to worship God to consider spiritual and moral issues and to explore their own beliefs.

Taking part in collective worship means more than passive attendance. The act of worship provided must be one to which pupils are capable of responding. This may be through being actively involved in the presentation of worship or through listening to, watching and joining in the worship offered.

Collective Worship has a designated time in the curriculum timetable under the 1988 Education Reform Act. It must be provided for all registered pupils and is in accordance with the Agreed Syllabus.

As a Church of England School, we actively teach the Christian faith and values. The Education Regulations 1994 Circular1/94 state that:

- All maintained schools must provide daily collective worship for all registered pupils, other than those who are withdrawn by their parents from these activities.
- Parents have a right of withdrawal wholly or partly from collective worship on religious grounds.
- Worship is to promote pupils’ spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.
- The majority of acts of collective worship in any term must be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character.
- Worship should be appropriate to the family backgrounds, ages and aptitudes of pupils.

Rationale - Aims and Purpose

As a Church of England School, we actively teach the Christian faith and values in the RE curriculum and, through Collective Worship. Collective Worship contributes directly to pupils’ learning and values of the school.

- To enable each child to explore our shared human experience and the questions of meaning and purpose which arise from our experiences.
- To enable pupils to know about and understand the beliefs and practices in religion. Among these Christianity has a particular place in our school.
- Furthering pupils’ personal growth and development of the beliefs and values of Christianity and other faiths.

- Pupils should develop the ability to explore and make meaning of their own religious experiences and those of others and respond to those experiences.
- To provide children with opportunities for spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. We recognise the inter-relationship between pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development, and the role, which Collective Worship curriculum plays in some of these areas.
- To develop the ability of pupils to think about, and develop for themselves, beliefs, values and concepts like celebration, the sacred, authority, religious belief and lifestyle through exploring fundamental questions of life.

Objectives

We see school worship as an educational opportunity with clear objectives. We use this time to encourage pupils to:

- Show interest in, and a concern for, members of the school community.
- Celebrate special occasions together.
- Show concern for the daily happenings in school life, the local community, the wider world.
- Share appreciation of worthwhile projects undertaken by groups within the school.
- Explore and review the variety of values, attitudes, standards, manifested in religions and society.
- Reflect upon dimensions of human life – the wonderful, beautiful, joyful, heroic, humorous, tragic, sorrowful, solemn etc.
- Reflect on the way in which humankind has expressed the deepest spiritual feelings through the creative and expressive arts, scientific discovery, religious practice, service to God and other people.

Organisation and Procedure

Collective worship is planned carefully through discussion with the EHT, staff, pupils and sometimes other visitors to school. We hold a daily act of collective worship in our school, taking the form of a whole school or Key Stage assembly or an assembly in class. There is a thoughtfully planned and varied programme for the daily acts of worship which allows for the progressive development of themes and ideas on an annual cycle. Current affairs nationally, globally or within the school community sometimes take precedence over the theme where appropriate – for example, natural disasters, General Elections, the Olympics.

We also build in clear curriculum links wherever possible – including opportunities to explore beliefs of others, the context of our own Christian values and how we can apply them in life, what can we learn from Historical figures or role models etc. and, with the explicit teaching of RE (Religious Education).

The content of collective worship aims to encompass spiritual, moral, social and cultural areas of religion and is broadly of a Christian nature. This is done in a variety of ways, through stories, readings, discussion, art, music, and dramatic interpretations. The content and format of collective worship are suited to the age, of pupils and serve to focus attention appropriately to create a respectful mood.

Pupils are encouraged to demonstrate respectful attitudes towards different faiths or cultures at all times and are actively encouraged to make comparisons with teachings of faith with their own experiences.

Pupils are actively encouraged to make suggestions for worship, and they will generally be invited to lead the worship they suggest or make that request of the appropriate person (School Council/charity representatives/ members of the family etc). At least for two terms during the school year, pupils are asked to volunteer to lead worship around a central theme.

A variety of other sources also inform the planning and implementation of worship including:

- JIGSAW RE resources
- PSHRE resources.
- Internet resources.
- Diocese of Lincoln or other Diocesan resources.
- NATRE resources.

Space and Time for Prayer and Reflection

Pupils will be taught about the purpose and value of prayer and reflection as part of the ongoing daily worship.

Pupils are encouraged to participate in and lead prayer in school, at church, in other places, and at lunchtimes.

Those who do not wish to pray are encouraged to listen and take the time for their own reflection and thought.

Exemption from Collective Worship

The 1944 and 1988 Education acts states “If a parent asks that a pupil should be wholly or partly excused from attending any religious worship or Religious Education given in the school, then the school must comply”. ERA 1988 Section V. Arrangements will be made for the safe supervision of pupils to whom the entitlement does not apply.

Monitoring, Evaluation and Review

The Executive Head Teacher is directly responsible for the management of daily acts of collective worship in this school: however, the staff are responsible for ensuring it supports the school's ethos and Christian beliefs – by regular attendance at worship, by leading worship themselves or enabling pupils to lead worship effectively.

Governors and senior staff monitor and review worship together, and pupils, staff and parents are regularly encouraged to feedback on worship they have shared in or led.

This policy was compiled using the following documents for guidance:

- The Education Regulations 1994 Circular1/94
- Lincolnshire County Council SACRE –Collective Worship in Community Primary Schools, Guidance and advice
- Lincolnshire Syllabus for RE