



Policy for Collective Worship in St Giles CE Academy



St Giles is not just a place, it's a feeling.

**A feeling that is part of you
and stays there forever.**

A feeling of respect: a hope for the future.

A feeling that fills you with the confidence to achieve anything.

A feeling of faith, love; where we grow together.

Rationale

Our collective worship policy strengthens and supports the distinctiveness of our school, reaffirms our vision and associated values of **RESPECT, LOVE, HOPE, FAITH, CONFIDENCE and GROWING TOGETHER**, and it celebrates the central role that each child has to play in our community. Our worship reflects the variety of traditions found in the Church of England, and will recognise and follow the Christian liturgical year. The daily act of collective worship is central to our ethos and is supported by all staff and governors. It makes an important contribution to the overall spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of the whole school community.

Here at St Giles, collective worship is seen as more than a daily 'awe and wonder' moment. It is the unique heartbeat of our school and is offered as part of a wider opportunity for our pupils and adults to encounter faith by engaging in conversations about God, both as individuals and together.

'We want pupils to leave school with a rich experience and understanding of Christianity, and we are committed to offering them an encounter with Jesus Christ and with Christian faith and practice in a way that enhances their lives...Collective worship in schools, including prayer, reading and reflecting on the Bible, liturgy, sacrament and experience of the musical and other imaginative riches of Christianity, provide a vital opportunity for this.' CEEO Guidance for collective worship

At St Giles, collective worship is planned to:

- Explore the school's vision and how that underpins shared values and virtues. In doing so, it will reflect on moral values such as compassion, gratitude, justice, humility, forgiveness and reconciliation; and develop virtues such as resilience, determination and creativity that develop character and contribute to academic progress.
- Help pupils and adults to appreciate the relevance of faith in today's world by encountering the teachings of Jesus and the Bible and developing understanding of the Christian belief in the Trinitarian nature of God.
- Offer the opportunity, without compulsion, to all pupils and adults to grow spiritually through experiences of prayer, stillness, worship and reflection.
- Enable all pupils and adults to appreciate that Christians worship in different ways, for example using music, silence, story, prayer, reflection, as well as through the varied liturgical and other traditions of Anglican worship, festivals and, where appropriate, the Eucharist.
- Enable pupils to develop skills through engaging in the planning, leading and evaluation of collective worship in ways that lead to improving practice



- Be inspirational and inclusive, engaging all learners. They can talk about the impact it makes on their relationships and on life in the school
- Help all learners to understand Anglican and other Christian traditions found in the UK and worldwide.
- An opportunity to celebrate and give thanks for achievements within the school, local and international community and occasions of significance, including festivals

Legal Requirements

The law requires the Headteacher and Governing Body of every school to provide a daily act of Collective Worship which is in line with the schools Trust Deed and foundation.

Withdrawal from Collective Worship

We are proud that our collective worship is invitational, inclusive and inspiring, but we do understand that a parent/carer has the right to withdraw their child from religious worship and we will ensure that we make alternative arrangements for the supervision of their child during that part of the assembly. Parents and carers do not have to explain or give reasons for their request. This right of withdrawal complies with the 1944 Education Act, and was restated in the 1988 Education Reform Act.

The Headteacher keeps a record of all children who have been withdrawn from collective worship.

Inclusion and Equal Opportunities

Collective worship sessions are planned out in accordance with the agreed school Equal Opportunities Policy and in such a way as to encourage the full and active participation by all pupils. All pupils should be able to feel secure during collective worship whatever the religious or non-religious tradition of their home. All children have the opportunity to share their own personal religious views. This is carried out in the safety of the school hall or classrooms enabling all children to feel secure and listened to by a member of staff.

All children have equal access and inclusive rights to the curriculum regardless of their gender, race, disability or ability. We plan work that is differentiated for the performance of all groups and individuals. St. Giles Academy is committed to creating a positive climate that will enable everyone to work free from racial intimidation and harassment and to achieve their full potential.

Planning and implementing Collective Worship

A worship planning group, consisting of members of the Ethos Committee, meet termly to plan themes for the up-coming term and to reflect, review and evaluate the previous term's acts of collective worship.



The worship is delivered primarily by the Headteacher and our Collective Worship Ambassadors (a group of Year 6 children). At the beginning of every half term, we invite a member of the clergy, from a place of worship in our community, to deliver a collective worship based on a specific value. Throughout the year, Canon June (head of St Giles Church and our RE Governor) visits to offer teachings and blessings during times of celebration based on the Liturgical calendar. For example, Holy Week, Candlemas, Eucharist, Harvest Festival and Advent, then we visit St Giles Church at other special times, Christingle and Remembrance Day.

Collective worship is a special time; we honour this by gathering as a family in the main hall, lighting a candle, inviting the children to join in quiet reflection and speaking out our call and response. The main act of worship is then delivered: after that we join together to sing a hymn, this is followed by the reciting of our School Vision (using our child-led hand signals to highlight our school values), the

invitation to join in with our school prayer and finally the call and response including the blowing out of the candle to signify the end of worship. During this time, the hall is a sacred space: a dressed table - draped in cloth reflecting the appropriate Liturgical colour - houses a candle, a Bible and a cross to represent the Holy Trinity which provides a focal point for the worship.

The main act of worship can include, a Bible story, an issue or event happening either within our community or further afield, a special time when we can showcase that we are courageous advocates, a discussion about our values and what they mean to us or a celebration of the amazing achievements of our children.

A Week of Worship

Monday – Collective Worship (UKS2 AM – KS1 PM)

Tuesday – Singing Worship

Wednesday – Class worship

Thursday –

Friday – Celebration Worship



Involvement in Collective Worship

The following people are regularly involved in collective worship:

Mr A R Grace (Headteacher)

Mrs C Cass (RE Curriculum Lead)

Awaiting appointment (St Giles & All Saints Churches)

Father Sam (St Giles Church)

Awaiting appointment (Featherstone & Pontefract Methodist Churches)

Collective Worship Ambassadors, who plan and deliver collective worship to the whole school as well as individual classes.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Pupils are involved in evaluating collective worship through feedback in weekly class worship and through the pupil voice white board outside of the main hall. All leaders of collective worship are asked to evaluate continuously, reflect after every worship, to develop and improve their practice. Worship is independently inspected by law under Section 48 of the Education Act 2005 in consultation with the Diocese of Leeds (SIAMS).