



# The Good Shepherd Multi Academy Trust

## Giltsland C E Primary School Collective Worship Policy

September 2022



Good Shepherd Trust  
Life in all its Fullness



### 1.Rationale

The School Collective Worship Policy reflects and reinforces the school's aims and ethos and will demonstrate the partnership between the conduct and content of school worship and the ethos of the whole school based on Christian values of Wisdom, Thankfulness, Hope, Friendship, Compassion and Resilience.

Our school is part of The Good Shepherd Multi Academy Trust and our core Christian values are at the heart of everything we do.

Our aim is to provide children of all faiths, and none, with excellent educational provision within a caring and supportive Christian ethos. We have at the centre of our mission and purpose the belief that every child has a God given right to educational excellence through the provision of high quality schooling.

We believe:

- Everyone has something to offer.
- We are on a shared journey, being there for each other and not feeling isolated.
- We are here for the whole person, spiritually, morally and socially.
- In working with transparency and openness.



At Gilsland C E Primary School we consider Collective worship to be a significant educational activity that both reflects and explores the schools distinctive Christian character and contributes to the academic achievement, personal development and wellbeing of all learners.

Therefore, Collective Worship at Gilsland C E Primary School is planned:

- to be inspirational and inclusive. It should engage all learners and they should be able to talk about the impact it makes on their relationships and on life in the school
- to regularly include Biblical material and Christian teaching and this should explore and relate to the schools core Christian values
- to have a strong focus on God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit enabling all learners to embark on an understanding of the Trinity
- to help all learners to understand Anglican and other Christian traditions found in the UK and worldwide.
- will challenge all learners of all backgrounds to understand and embark on their own spiritual journey. They should understand the value of Prayer, Reflection, Stillness
- will contribute significantly to pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development; by providing all learners with "something more than the obvious, something to wonder at, something to respond to"
- will be an opportunity to Celebrate and give thanks for achievements within the school, local and international community and occasions of significance, including festivals

Collective worship should be an experience that does not offend the integrity of the non-religious or those of different faith.

**The positive educational outcomes of Collective Worship at Gilsland C E Primary School include opportunities for:**

- the whole community to celebrate;
- sharing and experiencing differences;
- developing a culture of learning;
- building a sense of group identity;
- encouraging a sense of personal and social responsibility;
- a break from the business of life (for stillness and quiet);
- learning how to behave in a large social group;
- exploring feelings and emotions;
- learning how to perform in front of an audience;
- learning how to respond to a performance;
- making visible the school's leadership;
- developing inner awareness;



- discovering our place in wider communities in Britain and the world
- discovering our differences and similarities and celebrating these

## **2. Legal Requirements**

The law requires the Head of School, Executive Headteachers and Local Governing Body of every school to provide a daily act of Collective Worship which is in line with the schools Trust Deed and foundation.

Schools are obliged to give their reasons if they feel they are not able to comply with this part of the law. The School meets this requirement and is explained to all involved in the planning and delivery of acts of worship.

### **Withdrawal from Collective Worship**

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from acts of worship. Staff are also expected to attend collective worship unless permission is granted from The Head of School for them not to attend.

It is intended that consultation will take place before formal requests are made to withdraw from acts of worship. In the case of parents or teachers contact needs to be made with The Head of School. Guidance for new parents on non-participation in acts of Collective Worship is given in the school prospectus.

## **3. Planning a Collective Worship programme**

Specific time is set aside for this activity and we recognise the importance of marking out the act of Collective Worship from other assembly activities. We attempt to mark out this special time by lighting three candles and welcoming the Trinity by each of their names: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Each person leading worship is expected to plan his or her act of worship with the same degree of thoroughness as any other aspect of their teaching. We encourage a 4-stage structure of planning including *'Welcome'*, *'Learning'*, *'Reflecting'* and *'Responding'*.

Worship-planning takes place in staff meetings once a term, at the beginning of the term, led by the worship co-ordinator. These meetings are an opportunity to review and evaluate the last term's Acts of Collective Worship and to plan for the next term.

The views of pupils about collective worship are sought through the School Council. Pupils are encouraged to be involved in the planning, and leading of Class worship on a Thursday.

We use 'Roots and Fruits' (available on [www.imaginer.co.uk](http://www.imaginer.co.uk)) as a basis for planning Collective Worship.



#### 4. Our pattern of Collective Worship

Collective Worship takes place every day. On a Monday, it is the whole school and is led by Head of School; on a Tuesday, it is the whole school led by the EYFS teacher with a focus on hymns; on a Wednesday, it is the whole school led by Rev Angela Hughes and supported by staff; on a Thursday, it is Class Worship led by children, supported by class teachers; on a Friday, it is celebration worship and is led by Head of School.

The acts of worship generally follow themes that are aligned to the school’s values but include a recognition of the church’s year and make space for other national events. Other relevant issues may be picked up as appropriate. The content of these acts of worship may be varied but still include a significant Christian input.

#### Visitors

Visitors should understand the educational aims of Collective Worship at the school and the need to avoid any proselytising. Attempts to persuade pupils to adopt a particular religious or non-religious belief are not appropriate. In general the Head of School is consulted before a visiting speaker is confirmed. Visitors should not speak about raising money for any particular cause(s) without the prior permission of the Head of School.

#### Summary of Giltsland C E Primary School pattern of worship organisation

Day	Usually Led By	Content
Monday	Head of School	Welcome’, ‘Learning’, ‘Reflecting’ and ‘Responding’ within current value from ‘Roots & Fruits’ or Church calendar Also – current affairs reflection
Tuesday	EYFS Teacher	Sung worship around this terms value or seasonal hymns and songs
Wednesday	Rev Angela Hughes	Welcome’, ‘Learning’, ‘Reflecting’ and ‘Responding’ within current value or Church calendar or within a relevant Bible story
Thursday	Children (supported by class teachers)	Welcome’, ‘Learning’, ‘Reflecting’ and ‘Responding’ within current value from ‘Roots & Fruits’ or Church calendar
Friday	Head of School	PM Celebration collective worship- celebration certificates that link to reading targets, Headteacher’s Awards, certificates linked to vision (‘Love thy neighbour as yourself) and values Also out of school achievements celebrated