

*Green Lane
Church of England*



Primary School

Collective Worship Policy

Policy Title:	Religious Education Policy
Policy Author:	RGE
Date Approved by Governing Body:	July 2019
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<u>Date of Review</u>	<u>Description of amendments (if applicable)</u>

The Ethos and Values of Our School

Green Lane Church of England Primary is a rural school in the heart of Teesdale and at the centre of our local community. We offer a fantastic education based around achievement and success in a nurturing, holistic environment. At Green Lane we see the ultimate purpose of education as the promotion of “life in all its fullness” (St John’s Gospel, chapter 10, verse 10).

Here education is about more than just academic achievement; it is about developing young people who can flourish in all areas of their lives developing their intellectual, spiritual, moral and physical attributes and becoming proud and respectful members of our community. Our deeply Christian ethos and values are central to the experiences our children have each day as part of ‘Team GL.’

The collective worship policy at Green Lane CE Primary School pays due regards to legal requirements and is consistent with the guidelines offered by the SACRE of Durham Education Authority.

This collective worship policy reflects the spirit of Green Lane CE Primary School, is consistent with the philosophy and aims of the school as expressed in the school prospectus and is as expected of a Church of England school.

Definition of Collective Worship

Collective worship is the time set aside from other aspects of school life, when pupils are given the opportunity to learn and reflect on a variety of issues which may, if pupils wish to do so, evoke a worshipful response.

Scope

This document applies to all, regardless of age, ability, gender, race and faith. The school respects the rights of the children and values the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). In particular this policy supports Articles 14, 29 & 30.

Aims of Collective Worship

"Pupils who do not come from Christian families should be able to join in the daily act of collective worship even though this would, in the main, reflect the broad traditions of Christian belief" (Circular 1/94)

In Green Lane Church of England Primary School, we aim to provide all pupils with the opportunity to:

- worship that which is considered worthy
- consider spiritual, moral, social and cultural issues
- explore their own beliefs
- develop their own spirituality
- develop a community spirit
- reinforce positive attitudes
- participate and respond.

It is also our aim to promote a common ethos and shared values.

The Contribution of Collective Worship to aspects of the Curriculum

Collective worship can contribute to the rights-respecting values and spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of the pupils through:

- reflection on their own beliefs and values, and those of others
- influence of values on behaviour
- celebrating together
- celebration of ones' own and others' religious and cultural traditions.

Collective worship can contribute to other areas of the curriculum, enriching classwork, providing different perspectives, promoting thought and understanding and encouraging the quest for further study.

The Contribution of the Curriculum to Collective Worship

We believe that it is sound educational practice to draw on and from all areas of the curriculum (not just R.E.) and the outside world in order to provide valuable experiences in collective worship.

The Management of Collective Worship

The collective worship lead, in collaboration with the Senior Leadership Team, will manage collective worship.

The Organisation of Collective Worship

Collective worship at Green Lane supports the school's aim of developing character within the pupils in its care. On Monday and Tuesday acts of worship encourage moral character growth – with connections to Biblical texts intended to develop the children's spirituality and dignity, showing them that the Bible is a living text with messages as relevant today as they were 2000 years ago. Thursday and Friday support the growth of performance character with development of resilience, determination and giving pupils the opportunity to celebrate the joy in living. Wednesday is a combination of these two aspects.

Monday: Headteacher or Senior Leader – The Bible as a living text

Tuesday: Clergy from St Mary's Church Barnard Castle – Traditional Anglican Worship following the liturgical year

Wednesday: Child-led Collective Worship promoting pupil voice and celebrating diversity

Thursday: External volunteer, currently organist St Mary's Church – Worship through singing

Friday: Headteacher or Teacher – Celebrating some of the children who have lived the core Christian values that week – parents and carers invited

Leadership of Collective Worship

Every member of the school staff, each class group and occasional visitors may be involved in leading acts of worship at some point in the school year. The Vicar and other representatives from St Mary's Church regularly lead worship.

Planning Acts of Collective Worship

All acts of collective worship will be considered carefully, to ensure that the age, aptitude and background of all pupils are taken into account. Termly planning sheets list a separate theme for each Tuesday's collective worship, and include connections to the liturgical year in the Anglican calendar. Governors monitor acts of collective worship each year.

Visitors

Visitors will be welcome to lead collective worship from time to time and will be given guidance on leading acts of collective worship at Green Lane Church of England Primary School. Leaders from faiths within the area will increase the pupils' awareness, promote respect and raise the esteem of the pupils who belong to these faiths.

The Act of Collective Worship

A variety of teaching and learning styles and active and interactive methods are appropriate in acts of collective worship. Any and all of the methods employed in the classroom can be used effectively in acts of collective worship. A variety of resources will also be used. Leaders will choose the style and/or strategy and resources which are appropriate to the content, the age, aptitude and the background of the pupils and may use the school's questioning approach to stimulate creative thoughts.

It is the combination of content and the appropriate method of delivery that will ensure that the act of worship has a spiritual dimension. The content and process must be sufficiently stimulating in order to evoke a response in the individual. This response may not be visual, but opportunity must be given to express this response either through reflection or prayer.

If announcements are to be given at the same time as an act of worship then they will be of a positive nature, which at times may enhance the act of worship itself. Announcements may be made preceding the act of worship but a clearly defined break between them and the act of worship will be made. (A change of personnel, music, singing bowl, a moment of silence etc.)

The Relationship between Collective Worship and SEAL (Social Emotional Aspects of Learning)

There are some excellent topics in the SEAL materials which will provide scope for planning effective collective worship. The aim of Green Lane CE Primary School will be to dovetail the requirements of both with the specific needs of the school. The distinction between assemblies and collective worship should be maintained, however, and extra SEAL assemblies should not replace collective worship.

Withdrawal

Any parent who objects to their child attending an act or acts of collective worship may request that their child is withdrawn. Parents are encouraged to discuss this with the Headteacher. Arrangements will be made for a child who is withdrawn to be supervised.