

Great Tew School Collective Worship Policy

The Collective Worship Policy at Great Tew School pays due regard to statutory requirements, and has taken account of the guidance offered by the LEA through its SACRE and the 1988 Education Reform Act, which states that collective worship should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character.

The Collective Worship Policy of Great Tew School is consonant with the philosophy and aims of the school as expressed in the school prospectus.

Definition of Collective Worship

Collective Worship is a time when the whole school, or groups within the school meet together in order to consider and reflect on common concerns, issues and interests. It offers all pupils an opportunity to worship through engaging in relevant, meaningful experiences and provides opportunities for the pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. Whilst the 1988 Education Reform Act states that collective worship should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character' we conduct our assemblies in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs of all members of the school.

Aims of Collective Worship

For the School:

Collective Worship contributes significantly to the ethos of Great Tew school and it is our aim that it is a time when the school community can:

- promote a common ethos with shared values and to reinforce positive attitudes;
- celebrate achievement and special times
- explore together the world in which we live
- develop a community spirit

For the Pupils:

We also intend that Collective Worship contributes to the development of the pupil as a 'whole' person by providing opportunities to:

- consider spiritual and moral issues
- explore their own beliefs
- develop their own spirituality
- reinforce positive attitudes
- participate and respond
- reflect on what it means to be human

The Contribution of Collective Worship to aspects of the Curriculum

Collective Worship time is distinct from curriculum time. However, in Great Tew School, Collective Worship will at times feature aspects of the curriculum, which will enhance the experiences of pupils by reflecting on the work done in classes. At times, Collective Worship will enrich classwork through its consideration of subject matter from different perspectives.

The provision of opportunities for pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is in line with school policy which informs our practice. To ensure Collective Worship provides opportunities for spiritual, moral, social and cultural development it should address a wide variety of themes and topics, use diverse stimuli and resources and provide pupils with the opportunity to 'respond' on their own level.

The Organisation of Collective Worship

Collective Worship is organised to provide a variety of groupings and will take place in one of the classrooms. Acts of worship will usually last for approximately 15 minutes, although it is recognized that this time will be shortened or lengthened when it is appropriate.

Collective Worship is conducted in a dignified and respectful way and is an opportunity for calm reflection. We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music and sometimes candles or other objects that act as a focal point for the attention of the children.

Leadership

Every member of the teaching staff and occasional visitors will be involved in leading acts of worship at some point in the school year. The Governor with responsibility for RE and Collective Worship works closely with the Headteacher to monitor and evaluate acts of Collective Worship.

Planning Acts of Collective Worship

The content of all acts of Collective Worship will be considered carefully, to ensure relevance and suitability for the ages, aptitudes and backgrounds of all pupils.

Termly planning sheets (*Included in the appendix*) list themes, special occasions and events, but will be flexible to allow the inclusion of current and topical issues. Together with weekly planning and recording sheets (*Included in the appendix*), these will ensure that there is continuity and progression, and enable the monitoring and evaluation of acts of worship to take place.

Collective Worship is normally lead by the Headteacher or other members of staff but from time to time visitors will be invited to lead Collective Worship. 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/method and resources which are appropriate to the content, the age, aptitude and the background of the pupils.

The content and process must be sufficiently stimulating in order to evoke a response in the individual. This may not be visual, but opportunity must be given to express this response through reflection and 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 will be made preceding or following the act of worship and a clearly defined break between them and the act of worship will be made. (A change of personnel, music, a moment of silence etc)

Withdrawal

We expect all children to attend assembly. However 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. Any pupil who is withdrawn from an act or acts of Collective Worship will be supervised during that time by a member of the school staff.

Monitoring and Review

The Headteacher or Governor with responsibility for RE and Collective Worship reports to the Governing Body as part of the annual review of all subject areas.

APPENDICES

Multi-Faith Calendar
National Observance Days