

William Gilpin C. E. Primary School

Collective Worship Policy

Worship is an area of school life whereby Christian values and principles are reflected and affirmed

1 Aims and purpose

Our aims are:

- to reflect the traditions and practices of the Church of England
- to provide an opportunity for the children to worship God
- to enable children to consider spiritual and moral issues;
- to enable children to explore their own beliefs;
- to encourage participation and response;
- to develop in children a sense of community spirit;
- to promote a common ethos with shared values and to reinforce positive attitudes;
- to teach children how to worship.
- To celebrate all that is good and lovely and express thankfulness

2 Collective worship

2.1 We understand worship to be a special act or occasion whose purpose is to show reverence to God. Collective worship involves all members of the school coming together and participating in an assembly. We expect everyone to take an active part in the assembly.

2.2 In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act, which states that collective worship should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character', we normally base our assemblies on the teachings of Christ and traditions of the Christian Church. However, we conduct our assemblies in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs of all members of the school.

2.3 While the majority of acts of worship in our school are Christian, we also hold assemblies that reflect other religious traditions that are represented in the school and the wider community.

2.4 Through worship we hope to promote

- a sense of awe, wonder and mystery
- a sense of transience and constant change
- a sense of pattern, order and purpose
- an awareness of and relationship with the natural world
- an awareness of personal worth, uniqueness and identity
- an awareness of others as feeling, thinking persons
- an awareness of community and its rituals and celebrations
- an awareness of achievement, celebration and joy
- an awareness of loss, sadness and suffering
- an awareness that life involves choices

2.5 Children are encouraged to pray not only as part of a formal act of worship, but also at the end of each day and before lunch.

3 Organization of collective worship

- 3.1** We hold a daily act of collective worship in our school. This forms part of each morning assembly, which is normally a whole-school assembly, although sometimes we also hold separate infant and junior assemblies.
- 3.2** We conduct assemblies in a dignified and respectful way. We tell children that assembly time is a period of calm reflection. We regard it as a special time and expect children to behave in an appropriate way. We ask them to be quiet and thoughtful and to listen carefully to the teachings and participate fully in prayer and hymns. 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.
- 3.3** The headteacher, other members of staff or the local vicar, normally conduct assemblies, but representatives of local religious groups and organisations may also contribute.
- 3.4** We take the themes of our assemblies from the traditions of the Christian faith and we often reflect the festivals and events of the Christian calendar. We plan our assemblies as part of a series of themes well in advance.
- 3.5** Our assemblies reflect the achievements and learning of the children. We encourage the children to participate in assemblies by showing their work to the other children and raising issues that they have discussed in their classes. Assemblies offer an opportunity to acknowledge and reward children for their achievements both in and out of schools. They play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school, which is that all children are valued and all achievements are recognised. William Gilpin School is a successful school and we shall celebrate the successes of all the children in assemblies.
- 3.6** We invite parents to assembly on a weekly basis and we encourage them to attend, as this promotes the community spirit of the school and is a practical demonstration of the way the home and the school work together to support the achievements of our children.
- 3.7** We welcome governors' attendance at our assemblies at any time.
- 3.8** Each act of worship will include the use of hymns, prayers and some time for thinking, sharing and listening.
- 3.9** Special services are held to mark the major Christian festivals- Harvest, Advent, Christmas, Easter and Pentecost
- 3.10** A special service is held at the end of each term in the parish church, to which parents, governors and friends are invited.

4 Right of withdrawal

- 4.1** We expect all children to attend assembly. However, any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from attending religious worship and the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during the period concerned. Parents do not have to explain or give reasons for this.

This complies with the 1944 Education Act and was restated in the 1988 Education Reform Act.

- 4.2** The headteacher keeps a record of all children who withdraw from collective worship.

5 Monitoring and review

This policy will be reviewed in the Spring Term 2005

Signed:

Date: