

# GILLINGSTOOL PRIMARY SCHOOL

*Inspire ~ Believe ~ Achieve*



## COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

Signed ... 

Name: Dave Llewellyn

Chair of Governors

Date: February 2021

Signed  .....

Name: Caroline Carter

Headteacher

Date: February 2021

## **1. Aims and Objectives:**

### 1.1 What are the aims and objectives of Collective Worship at Gillingstool Primary School?

The aims and objectives of collective worship at Gillingstool Primary School are:

- to enable children to explore their own beliefs and to worship God;
- to promote a common ethos, with shared values, and to reinforce positive attitudes;
- to encourage participation and response whether through active involvement in the presentation of worship or through listening to and joining in the worship offered;
- to develop in children a sense of community spirit;
- to teach children how to reflect;
- to enable children to consider spiritual and moral issues.

We aim to be an inclusive school and offer equality of opportunity and diversity when needed to all groups of pupils within school.

We value, seek to understand, and identify the potential in everyone.

Through collective worship we promote values, which include where appropriate:

- British democracy
- The rule of law
- Individual liberty
- Respect of different faiths and beliefs (and no faith)

We do this alongside an appreciation and celebration of difference and diversity (reflecting all protected characteristics and social class). We promote rights and accept that rights come with responsibility.

Valuing our cultural heritage, we explore our local, regional and national heritage and British history, both positive and negative – learning from history and taking pride in positive contributions made.

## **2. Collective Worship:**

### 2.1 What is Collective Worship?

We understand collective worship to be an occasion to gather together to show reverence to a God. Collective worship involves all members of the school coming together and participating in an assembly. We invite everyone to take an active part in the assembly while recognising that they may not all have common beliefs.

### 2.2 How does Gillingstool Primary School carry out Collective Worship?

In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act, which states that collective worship should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character', we base our assemblies on the values of Christ and the Christian Church. However,

we conduct our collective worship in a manner that is sensitive to the faiths and beliefs of all members of the school.

### 2.3 When do Gillingstool Primary School carry out Collective Worship?

Collective worship forms part of our assemblies. While some acts of collective worship in our school are Christian, our assemblies reflect global, national and local events, the annual calendar, and the traditions of other religions that are represented in the school and the wider community.

## **3. Organisation of Collective Worship:**

### **3.1 How often is Collective Worship carried out at Gillingstool?**

We hold a daily act of collective worship. This forms part of each daily assembly, which can be either a whole-school assembly, key stage assembly or a class assembly.

### **3.2 What does Collective Worship look like at Gillingstool Primary School?**

We conduct assemblies in a dignified and respectful way. We tell children that assembly time is a period of calm reflection and thinking. We regard it as a special time, and expect children to behave in an appropriate way. We ask them to be quiet and thoughtful, to listen carefully, and to participate in prayer or singing. Before prayers, we ask children to decide whether they wish to 'put their hands together and close their eyes' or 'choose a point of focus' and to choose whether they wish to say such a response as "Amen". We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music, and sometimes candles or other objects, to focus the attention of the children.

### **3.3 Who delivers Collective Worship at Gillingstool Primary School?**

The assemblies are normally conducted by the members of staff but every Tuesday the local church group conduct a praise assembly.

### **3.4 Where does our Collective Worship focus come from?**

We take the themes of our assemblies from events and special days that occur around the world including, traditions of the Christian faith. We also observe the festivals and mark the events of other religious calendars. Sometimes the themes of our assemblies are related to topics that we teach as part of the school curriculum. Assemblies have a different focus each week and are outlined half termly on a rota.

Our collective worship focus varies throughout the week but includes: singing assembly, theme assembly, class assembly, story time assembly and a whole school celebration assembly. Although we plan our assemblies well in advance of the day they take place, there are times that assemblies will take place but may occur at different times for example due to hall timetabling.

### **3.5 Who can take part in our Collective Worship?**

Collective worship and assemblies are distinct activities but may take place as part of the same gathering. Collective worship can, nevertheless, be related to the day to day life, aspirations and concerns of the school. Our assemblies reflect the achievements and learning of the children. We encourage the children to participate in the assemblies by showing their work to the other children, and by raising issues that they have discussed in their classes. Assemblies provide an opportunity to reward children for their achievements both in and out of school. They also play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school, which is that all children are valued, and all achievements are recognised. Gillingstool Primary School is a successful school, and we shall continue to celebrate the successes of all our children at our assemblies.

### **3.6 Can members of the school community join in our Collective Worship?**

On some weeks, there is a particular assembly that parents and carers are invited to attend. We encourage their attendance, as this promotes community spirit, and shows the school and the homes working together in support of the children's achievements. Governors' are always welcome to attend our assemblies.

## **4. Right of Withdrawal**

### **4.1 Can a parent withdraw their child from Collective Worship?**

We invite all children to attend assembly. However, any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from religious worship, and the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the 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.

### **4.2 What happens if someone withdraws from Collective Worship?**

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

## **5. Implementation**

### **5.1 How is Collective Worship monitored at Gillingstool Primary School?**

Monitoring the policy and practice of collective worship is the role of the school council and a named school governor, who is also responsible for religious education. The governor concerned liaises with the headteacher before reporting to the governors.

### **5.2 How often is the Collective Worship policy reviewed?**

This policy will be reviewed every three years.

## **References**

- 1 [Department for Education](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/281929/Collective_worship_in_schools.pdf) Circular number 1/94 Religious Education and Collective Worship [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/281929/Collective\\_worship\\_in\\_schools.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/281929/Collective_worship_in_schools.pdf) Especially paragraphs 57-65
- 2 School inspection handbook for inspecting schools in England under section 5 of the Education Act 2005 - [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/843108/School\\_inspection\\_handbook\\_-\\_section\\_5.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/843108/School_inspection_handbook_-_section_5.pdf) Paragraphs 219-228 give guidance on the spiritual development of children
- 3 [Department for Education](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/380595/SMSC_Guidance_Maintained_Schools.pdf) - Promoting fundamental British values as part of SMSC in schools Departmental advice for maintained schools - Ref: DFE-00679-2014 [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/380595/SMSC\\_Guidance\\_Maintained\\_Schools.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/380595/SMSC_Guidance_Maintained_Schools.pdf)
- 4 POLICY FOR COLLECTIVE WORSHIP IN SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE (Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education) [https://www.sgsts.org.uk/SchoolSupport/RECurriculumandSACRE/Shared%20Documents/collective\\_worship\\_policy.pdf?Mobile=1&Source=%2FSchoolSupport%2FRECurriculumandSACRE%2F%5FLayouts%2F15%2Fmobile%2Fdispforma%2Easpx%3FList%3Df08bef88%2Df332%2D4fa3%2D8364%2D74815f935555%26ID%3D28%26wdFCCState%3D1](https://www.sgsts.org.uk/SchoolSupport/RECurriculumandSACRE/Shared%20Documents/collective_worship_policy.pdf?Mobile=1&Source=%2FSchoolSupport%2FRECurriculumandSACRE%2F%5FLayouts%2F15%2Fmobile%2Fdispforma%2Easpx%3FList%3Df08bef88%2Df332%2D4fa3%2D8364%2D74815f935555%26ID%3D28%26wdFCCState%3D1) provides guidance to schools
- 5 Appendices to South Gloucestershire Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (Sacre) <https://www.southglos.gov.uk/education-and-learning/schools-and-education/schools-support/standing-advisory-council-religious-education-sacre/> provide resources for staff, parents and governors