

Written by: S. Peel, Foundation Governors, Staff  
Reviewed by: Head Teacher and Foundation Governors  
Shared with staff: Jan 2009, Jan 2013, Jan 2015  
Seen by Governors on: 10.9.09. 27.11.12, 3.2.15  
Review date: autumn 2012, Autumn 2013, Autumn 2015

### **Collective Worship Policy**

Gargrave is a voluntary controlled Church of England primary school, and is one of the family of Church Schools in the Bradford Diocese. It was originally founded by the Church, but is now controlled by the local authority.

Instrument of Government states, "Recognising the School's historic foundation, the Governors and Staff aim to preserve and develop its religious character in accordance with the principles of the Church of England and in partnership with the Church at parish and diocesan level. The School aims to serve its community by providing an education of the highest quality within the context of Christian belief and practice." The Staff, Governors and parents in consultation have identified a set of core values which exemplify and underpin the central Christian ethos of the school;

Respect  
Enjoy  
Safe  
Politeness  
Equality  
Confidence  
Trust  
Forgiveness  
United  
Learning

The school aims to promote a common ethos and develop a sense of community spirit through these shared values, with Collective Worship playing a vital and central role exemplifying and reinforcing these values for all pupils. One of our stated outcomes is that pupils leave school understanding Christian values and faith.

The School encourages an understanding of the meaning and significance of faith, and promotes Christian values through the experience it offers to all its pupils. We aim through the education we provide to develop and maximise the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of our pupils.

In line with this aim, the acts of Collective Worship at Gargrave Primary School have been devised to offer pupils a quality learning experience which reflects the distinctive Christian foundation of the school and reiterates for them the School's integral Christian ethos.

In accordance with DfE circular 1/94 (p22), the Collective Worship provided by the school is "appropriate to the family backgrounds of the pupils and their ages and aptitudes". The programme provided does not presuppose shared beliefs and does not seek uniform responses from pupils. It caters for a diversity of beliefs and points of view, allowing individuals to respond as individuals. The school equality scheme is a point of interest.

### **The aims of the school's Collective Worship Programme**

The Collective Worship Policy adopted by Gargrave C E Primary School has as its underlying aims:

- To enable pupils to explore and respond to a variety of forms of worship, thus enabling those pupils with a religious commitment to deepen their experience of worship, and to allow those without a religious commitment to begin to appreciate what worship means for others.
- To enable pupils to have a healthy attitude characterised by feelings such as humility, awe, wonder, appreciation, thankfulness, respect, reverence and elation.
- To enable pupils to consider spiritual and moral issues and the many questions which relate to life.
- To acknowledge the things which have meaning, value and purpose for the pupils as individuals, as

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well as for the school and the wider community.

- To develop a sense of community within and beyond the school.
- To celebrate achievements, special occasions and special events in relation to individual pupils within school, to the school as a whole, or to the wider community.
- To acknowledge and respect difference and diversity.

**Implementation/ organisation** Candle to be lit, Worship table to have a focus, This is led by the *head teacher* who is responsible for the policy, the programme and responding to formal and informal observations. We hold worship at the start of every day 9am-9.15am.

Monday	whole school	Head Teacher led
Tuesday	Open the Book	Foundation Governors lead
Wednesday	worship through song	Staff led
Thursday	Whole School	In the absence of a vicar we are looking to guest/ community leads.
Friday	Whole School Celebration	Head Teacher lead plus staff support

- Termly class assemblies, celebration of the work completed. Parents and pupils together.
- In church every year harvest, carol service, and end of year assembly and at the cenotaph.
- Year 6 lead worship in the Spring term. Termly awards assembly.

Each term there is a plan, including themes. Themes reflect the liturgical year and key school events. Several outside leaders of worship attend once a term.

Collective worship is planned termly and has space for evaluations.

Resources used include Open the Book, Twelve Baskets and resources on the shelf in the staff room.

This year we hope to raise the profile of prayer. We want our pupils to understand the nature and purpose of prayer. We shall focus on the meaning of the Lord's Prayer. We shall create a display of prayers and the opportunity for a prayer box. We shall evaluate and focus on prayer at the end of the day and grace. We are going to include these saying in worship as they link with words used at our Church. "peace be with you" ... and also with you". "In the name of the Father, The Son and The Holy Spirit, be with us now and forever more, Amen". "Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, The Love of God, The fellowship of the Holy Spirit, Be with Us All, Now and Forever more, Amen.". We aim to develop pupils understanding of these prayers.

The school wishes to include understanding of Anglican traditions and practice such as the Eucharist in Collective Worship and when a vicar is in post this will be part of their role.

### **Right of Parental Withdrawal from the Collective Worship Programme**

Parents have the right to request that their child be wholly or partly excused from attending collective worship at school. The supervision of any child withdrawn from Collective Worship remains the responsibility of the school.

### **Monitoring, Evaluation and Review**

The school will review this policy annually and assess its implementation and effectiveness. *Foundation Governors* will observe and give feedback termly, pupils will meet *Foundation Governors* yearly.

**In Conclusion** At Gargrave C of E Primary School collective worship is highly valued and every effort is made to ensure that all children and staff take an active part in a high quality daily act of collective worship.

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Worship may contain many elements but at Gargrave primary School we seek to specifically ensure that the act of collective worship is a learning experience as well as a spiritual encounter.