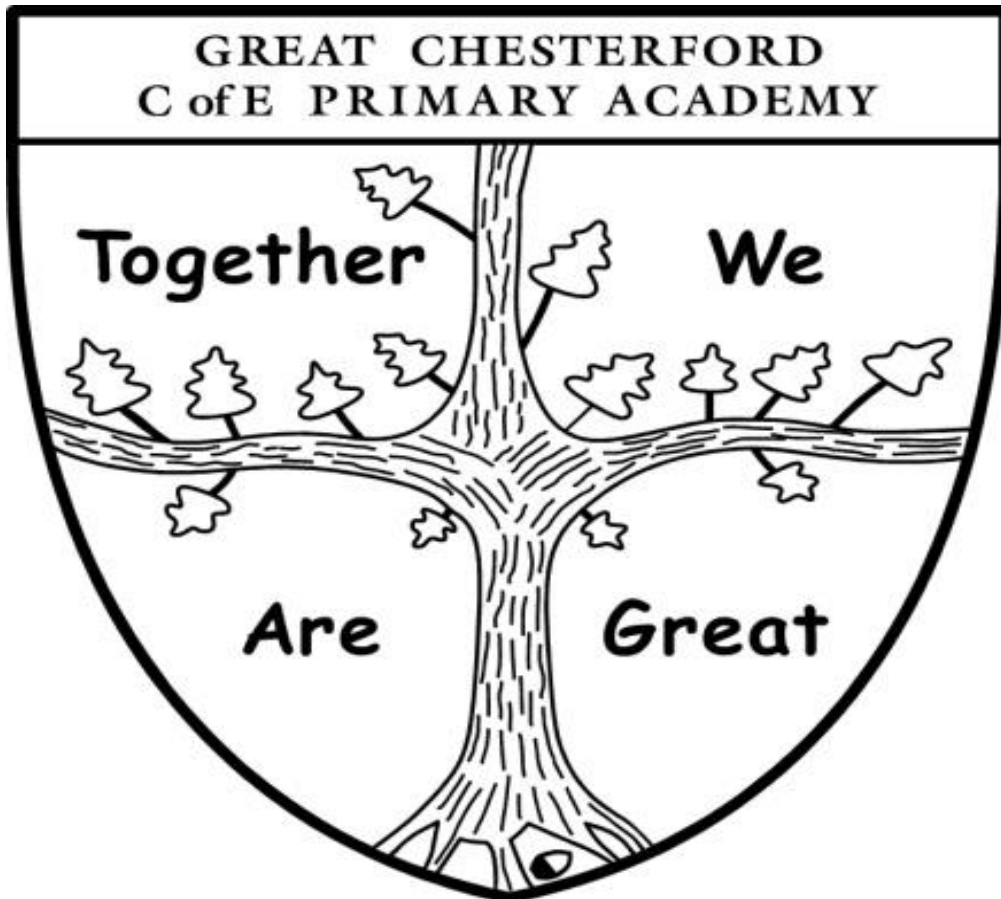


GREAT CHESTERFORD C. OF E. PRIMARY ACADEMY



Two are better off than one, because together they can work more effectively.

Ecclesiastes 4:9

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

2021

At Great Chesterford C. of E. Primary Academy, we aim to provide the best possible education for each child within the context of a caring Christian community. Our school values underpin all aspects of school life, including behaviour and relationships within our school. Our school values are: God's Guidance, Respect One Another, Excellent Behaviour, Aiming High and Tremendous Teamwork. Our Golden Rule is to 'treat others as you would like to be treated'.

As a church school, Collective Worship forms an integral part of everyday school life. It provides children with the opportunity to reflect on their own lives and the lives of others, explore the Christian faith in greater depth and develop a well-rounded understanding of the world in which we live. This Collective Worship policy follows guidelines provided for church schools by the Diocese of Chelmsford in the '*Breathing Space*' document and has considered guidance provided in The Church of England's '*Inclusive, Invitational, Inspiring*' document (Version 18.5.21).

AIMS

Collective Worship is at the heart of Great Chesterford Primary Academy. It happens on a daily basis, in many different forms and contributes significantly to the ethos and values adopted by the school.

For the whole school, the aims are:

- Share and celebrate school values
- Explore together the world in which we live
- Explore the Christian faith in greater depth
- Develop a community spirit
- Celebrate achievement both within and outside of school

Collective Worship that is personalised and worthy also contributes greatly to the development of a pupil's SMSC development by providing opportunities to:

- Worship
- Consider spiritual, moral, social and cultural issues
- Explore their own beliefs and the beliefs of others
- Develop their own spirituality
- Reinforce positive attitudes
- Participation in whole school and group discussions
- Reflection on their role in the wider world
- Develop a broader understanding of British Values

The Breathing Space document compiled by the Diocese of Chelmsford suggest that acts of collective worship should encourage children to explore, encounter and experience:

Explore

- Human stories which raise questions about meaning and purpose in life
- Spiritual and moral issues
- The part played by religion in everyday life
- Ideas about God and the way people of faith relate to God
- The Bible and its teachings and other religious texts
- Christian values

Encounter

- Christianity as a contemporary, diverse and world-wide tradition

- Christianity in action
- People of faith
- Worship and prayer as part of the natural rhythm of the day
- The annual cycle of feasts and festivals of the Christian year
- The Bible as a source of inspiration

Experience

- Gathering together and building community: sharing achievements, disappointments, joys and sorrows
- What it means to be part of a community
- A sense of awe wonder, mystery and silence
- A community where faith is taken seriously
- Worship that is enjoyable, creative and imaginative

CHRISTIAN VALUES

Our school values are closely linked with Christian teachings and have been chosen by both staff and pupils. The school motto 'Together we are great' links closely with the Bible quotation: *Two are better off than one, because together they can work more effectively* - Ecclesiastes 4:9. The school values derive from the word Great - God's Guidance, Respect One Another, Excellent Behaviour, Aiming High and Tremendous Teamwork. Both our school motto and five values feature heavily in acts of Collective Worship and link closely to many of the Collective Worship themes and Big Questions.

THEMES

Collective Worship follows a themed calendar which is updated on an annual basis agreed by a member of the S.L.T. There are three overarching themes each term with a series of associated, weekly 'Big Questions'. Every week, the Big Question is addressed and reflected upon. The questions chosen are designed to challenge children's thinking and encourage respect of others as they embrace different viewpoints.

ORGANISATION

The daily act of Collective Worship is accessible for all students in a number of different contexts. Whole school Collective Worship, Key Stage and class Collective Worship take place on a weekly basis. Depending on this, the location of the Collective Worship varies from the hall, to classrooms, to outside spaces, to church. Each week, Collective Worship is planned and led by different members of staff, whole classes, small groups of Year 6 children and a member of the local clergy. All children are encouraged to actively participate. They are encouraged to ask questions, challenge ideas and reflect on their own spiritual development. Music plays an important role in acts of Collective Worship. Hymns are sung and a wide variety of music is played to signify the beginning of the worship and during transition back into the school day. All acts of worship include a prayer and time for quiet reflection. Afterwards, children are encouraged to reflect and act upon issues which have been raised during the act of Collective Worship. When children have planned and led Worship, reflection sheets are completed to inform and support the delivery of future acts of Collective Worship.

In the event of statutory or recommended limitations to the size of gatherings, Great Chesterford Primary Academy will endeavour to maintain regular acts of worship and will seek to adapt its provision with the intent for Worship to remain inclusive, inspirational and invitational. This may include the use of teleconferencing and recorded presentations. Reference as to how Worship will be conducted in these circumstances will be included in any required risk assessments or updates to the Staff Handbook and communicated to parents.

INCLUSION

At Great Chesterford Primary Academy, all children are encouraged to take part in daily Collective Worship irrespective of their race, gender, disability, age and faith. In situations where this might not be appropriate, we recognise that parents have a legal right to withdraw their child from acts of worship and, in these cases, circumstances should be discussed with the headteacher so that an agreement can be made.

ROLE OF THE CLERGY

Staff and children take part in regular church services throughout the academic year to coincide with both the Christian and school's academic calendar. These services involve the whole school community, parents, members of the local community and are led by our school's vicar. In addition, a team of local vicars deliver a Collective Worship every week. Members of the clergy are also welcomed in school to support with RE provision and Eucharist services. They adopt a pastoral role for both children and staff.

COMMUNITY LINKS

As well as the clergy, members of the local community are invited into school to assist and enrich children's education in Collective Worship. Visitors are often invited in to deliver assemblies during theme weeks or for other special events and often stay after acts of Collective Worship to spend additional time with the children. As well as this, members of the local community are welcomed at church services, Eucharist Services and our monthly Prayer Meeting.

ROLE OF PARENTS

In addition to our community links, parents are welcomed at weekly celebration assemblies. During each term, every class plans and delivers the act of Collective Worship usually on a Friday. At these assemblies, children are also encouraged to celebrate their birthdays and achievements both inside or outside of school.

EVALUATION, REVIEW AND REVISION

This policy was written in November 2021. It will be reviewed in three years' time or before, if it is felt appropriate. It was drawn up in consultation with, and reflects the consensus of opinion of, the Headteacher, members of the teaching staff and members of the Governing Body.

Signed: Headteacher	Date:
Signed: On behalf of the Governing Body	Date:
Next Review Date: November 2024	