



# Gunthorpe C of E Primary School

Feeding minds, touching hearts



## COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

*"For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them."*

### Our School Vision

*At Gunthorpe, we always strive to do our best and let our light shine!*

*We do this by growing an understanding of the world that God created our place in it, our value to it and our responsibility for it.*

*This is live out through our Christian values of forgiveness, service, determination, respect, and friendship.*

*Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven*

*Matthew 5:16*

Collective worship is central to the life of Gunthorpe Church of England Primary School and reflects our Christian vision and values. Worship provides a daily opportunity for pupils and adults to gather in a spirit of community, reflection and spirituality. It is an expression of our Christian foundation and enables all members of the school community to flourish and 'live life in all its fullness' (John 10:10)

In line with Church of England guidance, collective worship at Gunthorpe is inclusive, invitational and inspirational. Worship reflects the traditions of the Church of England while creating opportunities for all pupils and adults, whatever their faith background, beliefs or worldview, to engage meaningfully.

### Aims

At Gunthorpe, collective worship aims to:

- Understand God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit as a focal point of Christian worship.
- Provide opportunities for stillness, prayer, reflection and spiritual development.
- Explore the school's Christian vision and values.
- Develop pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural understanding
- Celebrate the achievements, uniqueness and dignity of every member of the school community.
- Encourage respect, empathy and understanding of different faiths, cultures and worldviews
- Enable pupils to encounter Christian beliefs, teachings and practices.
- Give opportunities for pupils to plan, lead and evaluate worship

Collective worship at Gunthorpe is:

**Inclusive** -all are welcomed and valued regardless of background, faith or belief.

**Invitational** - prayer, reflection and participation are offered as invitations and are never compulsory

**Inspirational** – worship inspires pupils to reflect on meaning, purpose, courage, hope and responsibility.

### **Planning Acts of Collective Worship**

Our acts of worship are carefully planned using a range of resources including Roots and Fruits, Spinnaker Trust and diocesan materials. Worship is rooted in scripture and reflects:

- The Christian calendar and major festivals
- School values and vision
- Current issues and pupil experiences
- Opportunities to learn about and respect other faiths and worldviews
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Prayer and reflection are integral parts of worship. Language used when praying is invitational, for example 'I invite you to join in the prayer if you wish' or 'you may use this time to reflect quietly'.

### **The Pattern of Collective Worship**

Acts of worship take place daily in a variety of groupings; in the school hall, classrooms, in the Church and on occasions outside. We follow the seasons of the Church year and within this significant festivals and other special days are observed (including: Harvest, Christmas, Ash Wednesday, Easter and Pentecost).

Each week the worship follows a set timetable with a planned theme, linking to the school values, an exploration of scripture and/or the Church's calendar as appropriate.

The usual timetable of Collective Worship is

|           |                                                                                                                                                               |
|-----------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Monday    | <b>Whole School</b> led by Assistant Head                                                                                                                     |
| Tuesday   | <b>Key Stage</b> led by Class teachers using Spinnaker resources                                                                                              |
| Wednesday | <b>Whole school</b> Led by visitors e.g. from local churches/Assistant Head                                                                                   |
| Thursday  | <b>Whole School</b> led Head teacher: Worship through song exploring Christian themes through songs and hymns following the liturgical year when appropriate. |
| Friday    | <b>Whole School</b> Led by Head teacher: Celebration of Achievements, Fantastic Friday.                                                                       |

### **Leadership and Pupil Participation**

Worship is led by school leaders, staff, clergy, visitors and pupils. Pupils are encouraged to contribute through prayer, drama, music, readings and leadership opportunities. Worship is regularly evaluated through pupil voice, staff reflection and governor monitoring to ensure impact and continuous improvement.

### **Right to Withdrawal**

Parents have the legal right to withdraw their child from all or part of collective worship under Section 71 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998.

Requests for withdrawal should be made in writing to the Headteacher and will be respected without requiring parents to give a reason. The school will comply with requests promptly and provide suitable supervision for withdrawn pupils.

Parents may be offered an optional conversation to discuss arrangements or answer questions about collective worship; however, this is entirely voluntary and not a condition of withdrawal.

The school seeks to ensure that pupils who are withdrawn are not disadvantaged, excluded or stigmatised in any way. Where appropriate, pupils may participate in non-religious elements of celebrations.

**Review Date May 2026**

**Headteacher:**\_\_\_\_\_ **Signed**\_\_\_\_\_ **Date**\_\_\_\_\_

**Governor:**\_\_\_\_\_ **Signed**\_\_\_\_\_ **Date**\_\_\_\_\_