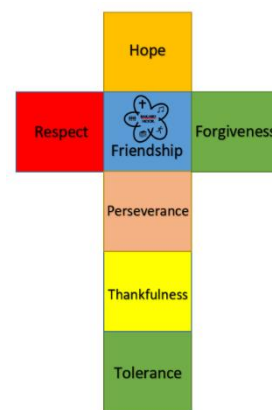




Garton on the Wolds CE Primary School Collective Worship Policy

Respect, Aspire, Achieve



Our School Vision is to work as a community within the school's Christian ethos. We learn about world faiths alongside our Christian Values to work towards creating an Outstanding school where all can flourish. Through the provision of a broad and balanced

curriculum we encourage every child to develop lively, creative and enquiring minds enabling them to become confident individuals who reach their full potential and succeed in Modern Britain.

Our school works in partnership with the church and the wider community to give a caring and nurturing environment. Together we enable and equip each child to "I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full" (The Gospel of John – Chapter 10, verse 10).

We will realise our Vision by:

- demonstrating, as a Church school, our Christian values in action
- consistently high standards of teaching
- providing a happy, healthy and secure environment where all are respected, valued and encouraged to contribute
- excellent leadership and governance
- encouraging a love of learning by participating in experiences full of opportunity and creativity
- pursuing excellence in every aspect of school life, supporting one another and celebrating the achievements of all
- a partnership of pupils, teachers, parents, governors and the local community
- Targets are challenging and achievable.

Our Values

Our Values are at the heart of our school vision and are illustrated in the Cross and shared with children on a regular basis, in Collective Worship and reinforced through our teaching and every day school life.

We established these in collaboration within our school community.

Our values can be said to be 'Human Values' and inclusive for all. As a Church of England school, however, we have rooted these Values in our Christian beliefs and in stories from the Bible making it particularly memorable for children.

Collective Worship Policy 2025 - 26

Collective Worship provides the opportunity for the school to meet daily and in a variety of contexts. Collective Worship is a time for learning, reflection and celebration. The worship of the school is based on promoting Christian values which permeate the ethos of our school. These Christian values are embodied in the New Commandment that Jesus gave us: John 13:34-35 "....love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another, then everyone will know that you are my disciples".

Aims

We as a school believe that good collective worship should:

- worship God
- consider spiritual and moral issues and to explore their own beliefs
- encourage participation and response, whether through active involvement in the presentation of

- worship or through listening to and joining in the worship offered,
- develop community spirit, promote a common ethos and shared values, and reinforce positive attitudes
- enable children to explore and enjoy praise and prayer.
- be a special time enabling children and adults present to worship together in a distinctly spiritual atmosphere conducive to worship and to have an awareness of God's presence.
- foster a spirit of belonging within the school.
- provide a time to share and celebrate the successes and efforts of the children's achievements providing an atmosphere that will allow for spiritual reflection and response.
- enable children to appreciate, explore and know how others worship God and why they worship in a particular way, thus fostering new insights and empathy about the life of faith of others.
- provide an opportunity for reflection
- provide an opportunity to worship together, thinking about the needs of others with care and sensitivity, fostering a concern for the needs of others regardless of race, colour or creed.
- foster and value a search for faith to live by providing an opportunity for children to celebrate, give thanks and share emotions such as love, joy, hope, friendship, acceptance, anguish, fear, reverence and forgiveness.
- develop the ability to listen and respond appropriately to a variety of speakers.

Christian Values

Christian values, derived from the teachings of Jesus Christ, are regularly revisited in our Collective Worship. We identify the values of thankfulness, hope, respect, forgiveness, perseverance, tolerance, friendship and share with children the direct teaching of God through parables and bible stories. We feel that by using the above Christian Values, and sharing the word of God, we create opportunities for the children to develop physically, emotionally, personally, socially, mentally and intelligently. Our Christian Values are securely embedded across our school. These values contribute to our pupils feeling supported, as well as helping them to develop a clear understanding of their rights and responsibilities as young citizens.

British Values

Our school reflects British Values in all we do. We encourage our children to be creative, unique, open-minded and independent individuals, respectful of themselves and of others in our school, our local community and the wider world. We aim to nurture our children on their journey through life so they can grow into safe, caring, democratic, responsible and tolerant adults who make a positive difference to British Society and to the world.

Our School, Christian and British Values Together

The British Values and our Christian/School Values link well together:

Democracy – Justice / Trust / Hope/Togetherness/Hope

The Rule of Law – Communion Service/Respect/Tolerance

Individual Liberty – Peace / Humility / Endurance/Belief/Love/Perseverance/Dreams

Tolerance & Respect – Compassion / Forgiveness / Friendship / Thankfulness / Wisdom / Reverence/Resilience/Patience

Spirituality

At our school we believe children live up to their potential if they are happy, have fun, feel nurtured and grow from a foundation of strong Christian Values. We value spirituality and the holistic development of the child.

We fully embrace the National Curriculum by "promoting pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development" and use, as a model, Liz Mills writings on spirituality. Our role as educators is to guide the

children in our care along the path of life, therefore spiritually plays a big part in our daily worship.

“Life isn't about the number of breaths we take, but the moments that take our breath away.” (Anonymous)

As children grow in their understanding of spirituality and values are embedded, they become secure enough to make mistakes and therefore move on with their spiritual learning and academic growth.

In our school the Liz Mill's model of the 'ringed donut' is used to bring an understanding with our pupils that:

Spirituality is about being aware of yourself and the world around you

Spirituality is about the 'wow' factor

Spirituality is about values and beliefs - the big questions

Spirituality is about emotions

Spirituality is the heartbeat of our school. It is how we understand ourselves and our place in the world: recognising strengths, weaknesses and having the confidence to challenge ourselves. We care for the local and global community and our Christian values underpin our learning and encourage our children to ask and answer 'big questions'.

Celebrations and festivals from all Faiths

We follow the Christian calendar and during Collective Worship we love to celebrate significant key events together that are important to Christians. Children also have the opportunity to explore and compare other faiths and religions with a key focus on Celebrations and festivals.

Organisation of Collective Worship

Monday	9:15 – 9:30	Whole School	Led by Mr Baxter or Miss Fox
Tuesday	9:15 – 9:30	Whole School	Led by Class Teachers
Wednesday	9:15 – 9:30	Whole School	Led by Revd Jane Anderson
Thursday	9:15 – 9:30	Whole School	Led by Mrs Heaton
Friday	2:45 – 3:10	Whole School	Celebration - Led by Mr Baxter

We conduct collective worship in a dignified and respectful way. Worship time is a period of calm reflection. We regard it as a special time and expect children to behave in an appropriate way. Music is used at the start of each act of collective worship to focus children's minds, help them to settle and prepare for worship and offer a time for personal prayer. We start each act of worship focussing on The Holy Trinity. Three candles are lit, that represents God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy spirit. This supports children's understanding of God being one in three forms. We ask our children to be respectful and thoughtful throughout the worship and to listen carefully to the teachings, to join in with any worship activities that may be presented, to share their thoughts and ideas as relevant to the act of worship and participate fully in prayer and hymns. Each class has their own prayer and reflection book, where different children throughout the week reflect on what they have heard during Collective Worship. Collective Worship is linked to the Christian Calendar and the weekly Christian Value focus.

Parental Involvement

Parents are invited each week to our Celebration Assembly which is held at St Michael and All Angel's Church in Garton. Parents are also invited to all of our Christian Celebrations which are held in St Michael and

All Angel's Church in Garton on the Wolds. The school has very strong links with the Church within the villages and the school works alongside Revd Jane, to organise Collective Acts of Worship involving the school and Church Communities. The school holds Harvest, Christmas Carol Service, Christingle, Easter and Leavers' Services at Church.

Reflective Areas

'Very early the next morning, long before daylight, Jesus got up and left the house. He went out of the town to a lonely place, where he prayed.' Mark 1:35

Reflection involves an inward journey from an outward stimulus. This internal journey may then lead to purposeful change. Reflection and prayer may be interchangeable for each individual as they make their own personal response. Children and young people are innately curious about life. Growing up raises lots of questions, some to do with their experience, both the good and the bad, and some to do with their sense of wonder at the universe we live in and whether there's more to life than meets the eye.

School Prayers

Collective worship always includes a time of prayer and reflection. A range of prayers are used, including the Lord's Prayer and prayers written by the children. Children are encouraged to write short prayers and display them in their class reflective area. Sometimes these are related to the Christian Value for the week, on other occasions this could be a personal prayer.

Right to Withdrawal

Parents have chosen to send their children to our school because of the high quality education and ethos of the school we therefore expect all children to attend acts of worship. 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. The Headteacher keeps a record of all children who withdraw from collective worship.

Resources

The Collective Worship Co-ordinator monitors resources available for Collective Worship and ensures that they are accessible to staff and pupils as appropriate. An annual budget is available to ensure that the worship programme can be carried out effectively. Resources for Collective Worship are plentiful. They can be found in the staff room.

Displays

In each classroom, the entrance lobby, hall, staffroom and office the school motto, ethos statement, school values are clearly displayed. Each classroom has a display above their reflective area, which highlights and shares the Christian Value for the week. Several boards contain displays linked to Bible teachings, values and a timeline of the bible.

Monitoring and Review

Collective Worship is monitored termly by, the Head Teacher, Assistant Head, RE Co-Ordinator and the Collective Worship team. The named RE school governor, in liaison with the Headteacher, also has responsibility to ensure that the collective worship policy is monitored and reviewed by staff and governors on a regular basis.

Policy Written By	Headteacher and RE Lead
To be approved By Governors	October 2025
\Review Date (Or before if necessary)	September 2026