



# COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

**THIS DOCUMENT IS** a **statement** of the aims, principles and strategies for Collective Worship at Gotham Primary School.

## INTRODUCTION

- Gotham Primary School complies with legal requirements of the DFES Circular 1/94 which contains the current requirement for a daily act of collective worship, the majority of which should be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character that is "reflecting" the "broad traditions of Christian belief" without being denominationally biased.
- The Collective Worship is for all pupils on the school roll, unless they have been withdrawn by their parent(s) 'on grounds of conscience'. Teachers also have the right not to attend or lead an act of collective worship 'on grounds of conscience'.
- In our school 'collective' may refer to whole-school, key stage groups, or in some cases one or more classes. Collective worship can take place anywhere appropriate, such as within the classroom, the school hall or the school's outside areas.

## PRINCIPLES FOR COLLECTIVE WORSHIP (AND LINKS TO RE, SMSC AND BRITISH VALUES)

- Our collective worship aims to encourage a sense of unity and identity between all taking part and to set aside a time for reflection.
- The majority of our acts of collective worship are '*wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character*' in line with requirements.
- We also recognise the religious, spiritual, moral, social and cultural insights provided by other principal religions and life-stances represented in England and Great Britain. This relates to the school's position on promoting **British Values**.
- In addition, CW at Gotham Primary School is one of a number of means that the school uses to support the children's understanding and engagement of their **SMSC** (Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural) development.
- CW is inclusive, and all pupils gain, no matter what their personal commitment and a sense of fellowship can be fostered by bringing the children together.

## THEMES

- CW is planned from a framework of themes which are set out in a rolling programme, AND are linked to the progression of the school year and the liturgical calendar.
- CW may sometimes non-Christian and non-religious material, and may also reflect the religion of other cultures, but comparisons are made to Christian beliefs and worship.
- CW also look at the life of notable people, and their work and contribution to society. Awe and wonder for the achievements of these people is included as part of our CW.
- Music, hymn singing, time for reflection and prayers as important and common features of our collective worship.
- CW is celebratory. On Friday each week there is a celebration of the children's achievement. This is seen in the setting of inspiration and Christian beliefs and British Values.



## LINKS TO THE CHURCH - OPEN THE BOOK

- Members of the congregation of St Lawrence Church Gotham contribute to our Collective Worship with a fortnightly visit where they deliver an interpretation of a Bible Story and lead us in prayer.

## THE RIGHT TO WITHDRAW FROM COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

- DFES Circular 1/94 contains the current requirement for a daily act of collective worship, the majority of which should be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character that is "reflecting" the "broad traditions of Christian belief" without being denominationally biased. However, headteachers must take into account the pupils' ages, aptitudes and family backgrounds.
- provides for the right of withdrawal from Religious Education or collective worship in local authority maintained schools.
- There is no requirement to provide a reason and the school must comply with their request.
- Parents have the right to withdraw their child from the daily act of collective worship without giving a reason for doing so.
- Should parents wish to exercise this right we will arrange for children to be supervised elsewhere in school.

## EQUALITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

- At Gotham Primary School, we aim to ensure that no member of the school community experiences discrimination within the learning environment because of their age; any disability they may have; their ethnicity, colour or national origin; their gender; their religion or beliefs.
- We value the diversity of individuals within our school and do not discriminate against anyone because of 'differences'. We believe that all our children matter and we value their families too. We give our children every opportunity to achieve their best by taking account of our children's range of life experiences when devising and implementing school policies and procedures.

## REVIEW

- All policies and guidance documents are subject to periodic evaluation and update.

Reviewed 2015

