

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

At Reeth and Gunnerside Schools, collective worship is a highly valued, keystone component of each and every day. Pupils and staff take part in a high quality, meaningful experience, rooted in Methodism, and offering a spiritual encounter within a broader Christian and educational context.

As inclusive schools, everyone is welcome; encouraging pupils to understand and respect the views of other people, including those of different faiths and none is important to us. Reeth is a Community School and Gunnerside is a Methodist Voluntary Controlled School, and within our federation, the ethos of our individual schools is respected and valued.



OUR VISION AND VALUES

Collective worship helps our school community to connect, share ideas and support each other. It offers a time and place each day to strengthen our vision and values:

We come to school to learn, explore and grow. In our small community, we all work together to make a better school, make connections and to prepare for our future. Values of love, kindness, hope and peace help to guide us on this journey.

Our school song, 'One More Step Along the World I Go', celebrates all that we do.



OUR AIMS

- To provide high quality education that enables all pupils to reach their full potential
- To inspire a love for learning
- To support pupils to become confident, independent, and well-rounded people ready for the next step of education and for life
- To develop pupil's understanding of right and wrong, respect for others, sense of personal responsibility, and politeness
- To provide opportunities for pupils to explore and develop beliefs and values, including those of the Methodist Church and of Britain
- To work together - staff, pupils, parents and the wider community - to achieve shared goals

AIMS OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

- Explore our school vision so it can be fulfilled at all times
- Enable staff and pupils to consider spiritual and moral issues, as well as explore their own beliefs, through the experience of prayer, stillness, worship and reflection
- Enable pupils to engage with worship, at an age-appropriate level, as both participants and leaders

- Enable pupils to approach the threshold of worship by exploring humility, awe, wonder, appreciation, thankfulness, respect, reverence and elation
- Enable pupils to consider spiritual and moral issues and questions that relate to life
- Develop and strengthen the sense of community and the spirit of helping others both within and beyond the school
- Promote the work of John Wesley and his teachings
- 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
- Provide an opportunity for children to connect with people from the local and wider community and church
- Celebrate difference and diversity
- Explore traditions from Christianity and other world faiths as appropriate
- Enable pupils to explore and respond to a variety of forms of worship, 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. There is no compulsion for children to participate in prayer or hymns that they cannot or do not subscribe to

PLANNING, ORGANISATION AND IMPLEMENTATION

A collective worship timetable is created each half term with a focus on either a school value (Love, Kindness, Hope, Peace) or a wider Christian value. Weekly themes are planned so that the key events in the life of the church may be explored. They also include major festivals from other faiths, fundraising opportunities news items and pertinent stories.

The headteacher plans the themes for each half term and makes these available for all staff and visitors to follow. We carefully consider the needs of pupils each half term to ensure that the topics we explore are as beneficial, varied, interesting and relevant as possible.

The headteacher leads collective worship on Monday every week, at both of our schools. The focus for the week is shared and linked to the value that we are exploring. A list of *Jobs for the Week Ahead* is shared too, giving some structure and ideas for pupils and staff to use over the days ahead.

Our worship plans include a hymn that pupils learn each week. Singing is an important part of life at our schools. Our favourite is our school song, *'One More Step Along the World I Go'*. We also have a list of over 20 hymns that we have chosen to include in our school hymn book. We also enjoy singing along with Fischy Music who we have worked with for several years.

We begin all assemblies with a greeting, developed with our Methodist Church. We light our School Values Candle and either the leader or a pupil begins by saying, *'Peace be with you'*.

All assemblies also include an opportunity for prayer and reflection, led by an adult or pupils. At the beginning of lunchtime, we say grace in our classrooms at Reeth and together in the lunch room at Gunnerside. At Gunnerside, pupils enjoy family service at lunchtime every Friday, reflecting the family atmosphere in our schools.



Collective Worship may be led by school staff, pupils, governors, visitors or faith leaders from the Methodist Church and other churches. It may take place in class, in the school hall at Reeth, outdoors or in church.

When leading worship, staff should consider the following elements:

- Give time for stillness and reflection, and the exploration of inner thoughts and feelings linked to the half-termly values and the weekly theme
- Provide opportunities for pupils to share what is important to them
- Celebrate what is worthwhile in pupils' own lives and in the context of the school, the local area and the wider community of modern Britain
- Create an atmosphere conducive to a sense of peace and tranquility
- Provide opportunities for pupils to use all their senses
- Take account of the age, aptitude and family background of the pupils
- Foster an atmosphere of mutual respect
- Provide opportunities to develop the imagination
- Use a range of activities such as singing, dancing, drama, prayer

We work really closely with the Methodist Church to plan an annual programme of services at the chapel in Gunnerside. Most of the services are attended by everyone on roll at Gunnerside School. Some services are also attended by pupils that study at Gunnerside, and key events like Harvest and Easter are attended by everyone.

EXAMPLE COLLECTIVE WORSHIP PROGRAMME

Our Values: Love - Kindness - Hope - Peace

Our focus this half term - Thankfulness

Monday	Individual school assemblies led by the headteacher	
Tuesday	School assembly	School assemblies on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Should build on the theme for the week by working on 'Jobs for the Week Ahead' introduced on Monday • Could explore relevant news items (max one day per week) • May be led by church - either virtually or in person • Should involve pupils as much as possible
Wednesday	School assembly	
Thursday	School assembly	
Friday	School or class celebration assembly	

Week beginning	Theme	Notes
Monday 20 th Feb	Shrove Tuesday, Ash Wednesday, Lent Hymn: Morning has broken	Wednesday 22 nd Feb - Ash Wednesday Service Friday 24 th Feb - Lent Service for EY and KS1, led by Y6 pupils
Monday 27 th Feb	Books Hymn: Thank you, Lord, for this new day	Thursday 2 nd March - World Book Day
Monday 6 th March	Community 'The World is My Parish' Hymn: He's got the whole world in his hand	
Monday 13 th March	People in our lives Helping those that need support Hymn: Lord of the dance	Friday 17 th March - Red Nose Day Sunday 19 th March - Mothering Sunday
Monday 20 th March	Freedom 'Let everyone enjoy the full and free liberty of thinking for himself' Hymn: Go, tell it on the mountain	Rachel P - Wednesday 11 th Assembly input for Y1&2 Later this week (TBC) - whole school assembly led by Y1&2
Monday 27 th March	Easter Hymn: Colours of day	Wednesday 29 th March - Eastertingle

PUPIL OWNERSHIP AND LEADERSHIP OF WORSHIP

Our assemblies are pupil centred and always include opportunities for pupils to become involved. For example, pupils regularly share their prayers, thoughts and reflection. They often begin the assembly with a greeting for everyone. Some assemblies include longer more sustained leadership by pupils. On these occasions, either the church or school staff (or both) will work with pupils in advance, initiating ideas and inspiring pupils to prepare an assembly. Sometimes a group of pupils (e.g. KS2) attend a church service and then lead a similar assembly for a different group back in school.

MONITORING AND REVIEW

Informal reflection and evaluation of worship takes place regularly through discussion between school staff. The thoughts, ideas, opinions and preferences of pupils are regularly sought. Monitoring and review of collective worship will be carried out by the headteacher, members of the governing body and church leaders.

PARENTAL RIGHTS

Parents have a right to withdraw their child from all or part of the programme of collective worship. Parents do not need to explain their reasons for this, although they are encouraged to discuss it with the headteacher. The school remains responsible for the supervision of children withdrawn from collective worship unless the child is taking part in collective worship elsewhere.

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

This policy was approved by governors in spring term 2023. This policy will be reviewed biennially.