



## Policy Header

<b>Policy Title</b>	<b>Worship Policy</b>
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## **POLICY FOR COLLECTIVE WORSHIP**

As an Anglican foundation, Glazebury Church of England School seeks to promote a stimulating and caring learning environment. An environment where children are encouraged to reach their full potential. This will be achieved through a broad and balanced curriculum, which has at its heart Christian beliefs and values. Through the curriculum we aim to raise the children's awareness of the world around them and to show concern for its people, their ways of thinking and living and for its resources. This solid foundation will be built upon to prepare children for the experiences and responsibilities they will meet throughout their lives.

Glazebury values the partnership of home, school, parish and community; as it is through this partnership that the best interests of the children will be served. Our children will, therefore, see their school as part of a wider community in which they are valued members.

### **Introduction**

Glazebury school policy for collective worship reflects the consensus of opinion of the whole teaching staff, has the full agreement of the governing body.

### **The Nature of Collective Worship**

All acts of worship are in accordance with the school's Trust Deed and reflect the Anglican status of the school.

"Collective Worship" refers to worship shared by the whole school/pupils/staff gathered together for a time of shared belonging.

Prayer, praise, silence, a sense of community, common values, the power of the spoken word, ritual and many other experiences contribute to "Collective Worship".

### **Entitlement**

The Education Reform Act 1988, which amended the worship provision of the 1944 Education Act, states there will be a daily act of collective worship for all pupils, which will be held on the school premises, except on special occasions when we, as a Church Aided School and with the permission of the governors, will worship in All Saints' Church.

Parents have the right, under Section 9c of the Education Reform Act, to withdraw their child(ren) from collective worship. However, we consider it reasonable to assume that parents who send their children to Glazebury are sympathetic to the Christian character of the school, as this permeates through that all we do.

### **Aims**

At Glazebury, our aims are:

- to contribute to pupils' spiritual development, e.g.
  - experience what worship is and what people do when they worship
  - develop ability to meditate and use silence creatively
  - reflect on and think more deeply about important issues
  - celebrate all that is of value in life: truth, love, goodness, beauty, etc.
  - explore mystery and the important questions about life and creation, including the dark side of life, eg suffering, loss, death and evil
  - express their concerns, hopes, joys, etc
  - build up their relationship with God
- to introduce pupils to the worship of the Church of England, eg
  - learn to use church service books
  - learn appropriate responses and forms of prayer

- give pupils a repertoire of prayers to take into adult life
- to gain in knowledge and understanding of the Christian faith, e.g.
  - explore Christian beliefs about God
  - learn about the place and significance of the Bible
  - learn about the significance of Jesus
  - share in Church life and Christian practice
  - celebrate the festivals and the Saints days of the church year
- to explore and share the beliefs of others, e.g.
  - listen to stories from other faiths and learn about their significance
  - discover how believers from other faiths worship
  - celebrate values and attitudes shared with members of other faith communities
- to contribute to pupils' moral development, e.g.
  - develop ability to reflect on moral and social issues
  - appreciate the values and beliefs that people live by
  - acknowledge and become more aware of the needs of others
- to contribute to the general development of pupils, e.g.
  - provide them with opportunities for leadership and developing performance skills
  - learn the skill of choral speaking
  - develop pupils' singing ability
  - participate in group preparation and presentation
- to celebrate and take note of the life of the school in the presence of God,
- e.g.
  - celebrate work undertaken by pupils in all areas of the curriculum
  - build up the sense of community of the school
  - develop and reflect on the values of the school
  - share the achievements, joys and difficulties of all members of the school community
- to look out to the wider world, e.g.
  - to take note of events in the world and express joy or sorrow as appropriate
  - to celebrate and give thanks for God's world.

## Organisation and Delivery

- GROUPINGS - Collective Worship at Glazebury is organised as follows:

Day	Leader
Monday	Whole school worship led by Headteacher
Tuesday	Whole school Praise Worship
Wednesday	Whole school worship led by Rev Pam Swift
Thursday	Class /Key Stage worship led by SLT
Friday	Whole school celebration led by Headteacher (Visitors join us)

## Leaders

Worship is led by different leaders on different days and occasions, including the Headteacher, other staff members, Reverend Pam Swift (The House for Duty priest) and the children themselves

We warmly welcome visiting speakers into our assemblies. Charitable organisations often come to speak about their roles in society and the work they do. We have also invited ministers from local churches to lead assembly on occasions.

### **Timing**

Collective worship normally takes place at varying times in the afternoons depending upon the day and circumstances.

### **Presentation**

We engage the children (concentrate their thoughts, involve their feelings and emotions and encourage their physical participation) by asking questions, by asking them to perform actions (e.g. hold hands, clap, join in an action song, etc), by providing something to listen to (e.g. music) and by giving them the opportunities to sing and speak (e.g. a chorus or refrain). Children choose the prayer to fit into the theme for the half term.

In our acts of collective worship at Glazebury, we use different types of presentation to capture the children's interest and imagination. We try to achieve a balanced programme of worship, by means of prayers, hymns, stories and readings, songs, drama and periods of quiet meditation when thoughts are focused in a particular direction.

There are times when the worship is quiet, contemplative and serene and other times it involves loud music, laughter and dance, a mixture which is creative and varied, joyful and reverent, penitent and spirit-filled.

We hope our assemblies provoke:

- feelings of gratitude for families, friends and health
- anger and bewilderment in the face of injustice and suffering
- awe and wonder at the beautiful mysteries in life
- grief and compassion at times of tragedy and hardship.

### **Syllabus**

Everything we do is based upon Christian Values and we follow the Church of England's syllabus "Values for Life". Alongside this we merge the SEAL curriculum and have a two year rolling programme that has been developed with both the previous Curate in Charge Reverend Pat Gray and Hollins Green St Helens CE Primary School.

### **Evaluation, Monitoring and Recording**

Evaluation and monitoring of the collective worship takes place, usually between the Headteacher, staff and House for Duty Priest. We look to encourage a range of people to take part in the evaluation through thought bubbles although we are now trialling different types of evaluation.

Collective worship is placed on the agenda for a staff meeting once a year.

Records of the assembly themes, resources used, hymns sung and the format of the assembly are kept by the Headteacher.

**Collective Worship and School Ethos**

Fundamental to the ethos of Glazebury School is the knowledge that we are all made in the image of God and loved by Him, so every individual in our school community and in the wider community is valued and treated with respect.

The collective worship on Friday incorporates a time of celebration of children's work, both celebration of excellence in absolute terms and a celebration of the achievement and effort involved in doing the best a child is capable of at a particular time.

As well as the celebration of the achievement of academic goals, we also celebrate the achievement of learning attainments in all spheres of the life of a school.

Also, alongside triumphs on the sports field, there is celebration of success in fund raising for charity, in making links with the local community and in demonstrating the attitudes towards others that we at Glazebury wish to foster.

**Parents**

Parents are encouraged to work in partnership with the school to support their child's moral and spiritual development. Parents are invited to special services, particularly the ones held in Church and also Good News Assemblies which are held on a half-termly basis.