

Collective Worship			
Version	8	Approved by	Headteacher
Date last amended	2024	Approval date	23.04.24
Lead officer	RE lead	Review date	2027
Contact	Lucie Burnage	Effective date	24.04.24

Rationale

Great Oaks, like all maintained schools, has a duty to provide daily collective worship for registered pupils (apart from those who have been [withdrawn by their parents](#)). This is provided within a daily assembly.

The head teacher is responsible (under the School Standards and Framework Act 1998) for arranging the daily collective worship after consulting with the governing body. Daily collective worship must be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character. The precise nature will depend on the family background, ages and abilities of the pupils. However, if it is inappropriate for some or all of the pupils to take part in Christian collective worship, the head teacher may apply to the local Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) for a determination to have this requirement lifted. As an SEN school we are committed to providing inclusive and meaningful worship experiences that cater to the diverse and complex needs of our pupils. Our Collective Worship policy reflects our values of respect, diversity, inclusion and personal growth.

Objectives

The aim of the collective worship at Great Oaks School is to provide the opportunity for pupils to:

- reflect on values that are of a broadly Christian nature and on their own beliefs
- develop a community spirit, a common ethos and shared belonging
- consider spiritual and moral issues
- to learn how to worship God
- collectively celebrate achievements, successes and good news
- To support the emotional well being and mental health of pupils and staff by offering moments of mindfulness and reflection.

Implementation

In line with statutory responsibilities the majority of our assemblies reflect Christian principles and traditions. However, we conduct our worship in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs of all members of the school. We also hold worship that reflects other religious traditions that are represented in the school and the

wider community in line with Living Difference IV (The Agreed Syllabus for Hampshire, Portsmouth and Southampton).

All pupils and staff have the opportunity to play an active part in assembly.

Parents have right to withdraw their child from acts of Collective Worship. They should speak to the Headteacher in the first instance. Alternative activities will be provided to any pupils withdrawn from Assemblies.

The current organisation of assemblies is as follows:

Reflection, Recognition, Responsibilities –throughout the week.

Monday - Whole School Assembly –Introduction to the theme / concept of the week + Recognition, Responsibilities

Tuesday – year 7 Assembly

Wednesday – Pathways 1and2 Assembly

Thursday – Pathways3 Assembly

Friday – Whole school Assembly – Reflection and Celebration about the theme of the week with input from classes / subject teachers / student council, PSHE co-ordinator or invited guest speakers .+ School Newsletter.

Monday and Friday Assemblies are led by the Head teacher or SMT

Pathway Assemblies are led by the Pathway managers.

Class Assemblies are led by class teachers.

Guest speakers are invited in accordance with Great Oaks Safeguarding Policy.

NOTE

All collective acts of worship should provide opportunities to **reflect, respond and revere**.

- Aim to identify a time for all to reflect upon stimulus.
- Responses might be expressed through silent thoughts or more overtly by listening to a prayer or poem, singing or chanting, repeating or reciting a response, movement or dance, meditation, silence or stillness.
- Aim to provide a sense of awe and wonder. Help pupils to recognise, affirm and celebrate the values that are important to Great Oaks.

There is no statutory obligation for students in the Sixth Form to attend daily acts of collective worship, however, as many of them are whole school celebrations they attend as many as they can, depending upon their other timetable commitments.

An Annual calendar of themes for Assemblies is produced by the school Leadership Team taking into account RE concepts from RE long term plan made by RE co-ordinator.

Bugle House (Off site provision)

It needs to be taken into consideration for those pupils on personalised timetables attending Bugle House, due to the nature of their emotional and social difficulties that a more flexible approach is used. Some pupils may find it difficult to work in a small group hence making daily act of worship difficult. It is acceptable that pupils studying at Harcourt road attend Great Oaks whole school assemblies as and when they are able. A time of reflection can be provided on an individual basis as and when is appropriate to the pupils' needs.

The Prevent Duty

The Prevent Duty is the duty in the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015.

Departmental advice for schools and child care providers can be seen in PDF in policy file in Teachers Only.

Prevent statement

We will

- Ensure that staff have adequate training in order to alert them to the Prevent Duty
- Identify children who are vulnerable to radicalisation and know what to do when they have been identified.
- Build pupils' resilience to radicalisation by promoting British values and enabling them to challenge extremist views.
- Understand the risks and how to identify children who may be at risk and support them, including the Increased risk of online radicalisation
- Provide children with the time to explore sensitive or controversial issues and to develop knowledge and skills to manage difficult situations, recognising when pressure from others threatens their personal safety and well being
- Follow the school's normal safeguarding procedures if they have a concern

Staff should take action when they observe any behaviour of concern. We will work in partnership with the LSCB; promote effective engagement with parents; and assist and raise concerns and be able to point to support mechanisms. This will include a referral to the Channel Programme – a mechanism for a referral to children identified as being at risk, following DFE guidelines.

Monitoring, Evaluation and Review

The school will review this policy annually and assess its implementation and effectiveness. The policy will be promoted and implemented throughout the school.

Conclusion

At Great Oaks, collective worship is an integral part of our commitment to providing a holistic and inclusive education that nurtures the spiritual, moral, and personal development of our students. Through meaningful and accessible collective worship experiences, we aim to cultivate a supportive and inclusive school community where every individual is valued, respected, and empowered to thrive.