

Greenleys Junior School



LEARNING *for* LIFE

Collective Act of Worship Policy

Date of Approval:	7 November 2023
Date of Next Review:	November 2024
Signed: Executive Headteacher	M Talbot
Signed: Chair of Governors	M Hall

Document History

Date	Change Reference	Summary of Change
13/09/2019	Page 5	Range of Religious Faith Statistics
14/09/2020	Page 4 & 5	Covid-19 update to Circle Provision, assemblies and activities
22.09.2020	Page 5	Range of Religious Faith Statistics
06.10.2021	Page 5	Range of Religious Faith Statistics
06.10.2021	Page 4 & 5	Remove/amend COVID-19 restrictions as required
01.11.2022	Page 4	Range of Assemblies held
01.11.2022	Page 5	Range of Religious Faith Statistics
27.10.2023	Page 5	Range of Religious Faith Statistics

Collective Act of Worship Policy

This school complies with the requirements set out in the 1988 Education Reform Act regarding Collective Worship.

An Act of Collective Worship takes place every day. The time at which this takes place and the form of the Collective Worship (whole school, team or class groupings) may vary from day to day.

The majority of the Acts of Collective Worship will be spiritual, moral, social or cultural in content.

Whilst fully complying with the law, the school will be sensitive to the fact that not all children will come from religious families.

1. Statutory Duty of School

- The Education Reform Act (1988) requires schools to provide a daily act of worship for all registered students apart from those who have been withdrawn by their parents (Appendix 1).
- 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.
- Acts of worship must be “wholly or mainly of a broad ‘Christian nature’ and ‘not to be distinctive of any denomination’” and must not be evangelistic in their content or delivery (Education Reform Act Section 7.1). They should make a contribution to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of students.
- In providing Acts of Collective Worship the ages, abilities and family backgrounds of the students will be taken into consideration. At Greenleys Junior School we believe that the Act of Worship involves reflection on things of worth; to our community, to each individual and the life we share in school together.

2. Purposes

2.1 To provide a special moment for each child to be heard and listened to.

2.2 To share individual experience about living in and responding to the world.

2.3 To enrich our lives through exploring and sharing people’s beliefs in our community.

2.4 To foster a high regard for truth.

2.5 To encourage sensitivity to the ideas and beliefs of others and to questions which lie beyond the visible and material.

2.6 To provide a means by which students can begin to understand the language and nature of worship, including the importance of prayer, meditation and silence.

2.7 To provide an opportunity to develop the human spirit.

2.8 To provide an opportunity to re-affirm, interpret and put into practice the values and worth of the school.

2.9 To explore implicit ethical/religious themes linked to our school ethos, e.g. concern for others, responsibility, charity and a sense of community.

2.10 To provide the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of students.

2.11 To provide a time to celebrate the various achievements of members of the community that are held to be of worth.

Implementation

- Each week the following will take place:
 1. One celebration assembly
 2. One other whole school assemblies (singing/Head Teacher/Staff led)
 3. 5 Restorative circle activities
 4. Class based Picture News discussion.
- Each year the following will take place:
 1. Leavers assembly/production for year 6
 2. Bridgebuilder Trust visitor assemblies (x3).
 3. Other visitor assemblies as appropriate.
- While the major Christian festivals will form a focus for assemblies at the appropriate times, significant festivals for other faiths within our community will also be recognised.
- Assemblies will also be opportunities to inform students of sporting and other achievements, to give news of staff and student activities, to reinforce school rules, and to act as a 'platform' on which students' musical and dramatic abilities can be demonstrated.

This policy should be considered in association with all other policy statements relating to the spiritual, moral and cultural development of students.

Appendix 1: Assemblies

Under Section 30 of the Education Act 1944, notwithstanding the provisions of the Education Reform Act, a teacher can be required to attend the secular part of a school assembly but need not engage in the act of collective worship on the grounds of her/her religious beliefs and practices.

Nothing in the Education Reform Act affects parents' rights, as established in the 1994 Act, to withdraw their children from Religious Education (Philosophy & Ethics) and collective worship if they wish. These are in summary:

- it cannot be a condition of attendance that a student attends, or abstains from attending any place of worship;
- if a parent asks that a student should be wholly or partly excused from attending any religious worship or RE given in the school, then the school must comply;
- A student may be withdrawn from the school premises to receive RE elsewhere, if the parent requests this, so long as the LA is satisfied that this will not interfere with his or her attendance at school other than at the beginning or end of any school session.

Appendix 2: Festivals

A range of faiths is represented at Greenleys Junior School including:

Religion	2023-2024	2022-2023
Christianity	21.24%	23.42%
Muslim	24.34%	22.07%
Hinduism	3.10%	1.80%
Other	3.98%	3.6%
No Religion	37.61%	36.49%
Unknown/Refused	9.29%	12.61%

Rationale for acknowledging festivals

- To recognise diversity in a multi-cultural school.
- To give information about the beliefs and lifestyles of other.
- To encourage tolerance.
- To promote positive self-images among all members of our community.

Implementation

- Restorative circles.
- RE topic/themed displays.
- Visits out and visitors to school after assessment and deemed appropriate.