



St. Giles' School Collective Worship policy

7th May 2024

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SGS staff lead on policy : SN		Date of next review: Summer 2026
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1	NA	



Collective Worship

Mission Statement

At St Giles we are passionate about learning. Our school community includes and values everyone, working together to achieve in a supportive, caring and professional way. Our enthusiasm and positive energy makes St Giles a truly happy and vibrant place to be.

Rationale

At St Giles collective worship forms an integral part of our weekly assemblies which bring the school community together to:

- celebrate and reflect on things that have worth and meaning to our school community.
- be inclusive and meaningful for the range of communities our school serves.
- create an atmosphere where pupils' own beliefs are valued and each one has the opportunity to respond in their own way.
- provide experiences to deepen the inner senses and engender feelings of self-worth and the uniqueness of the individual.
- give pupils a purpose and meaning to life, awe and wonder of the natural world, reverence and respect.

The legal requirements

We are required by law to ensure that every child attends collective worship unless they are withdrawn by their parents or carers or it is not practicable for a child to attend due to their complex needs (see footnote). At St Giles we provide daily collective worship sessions in each class. Weekly department assemblies for Upper, Middle and Lower School Departments often include collective worship.

Collective Worship Sessions in Classes

Class teams aim to create an atmosphere in which genuine worship may take place and where pupils' religious and cultural backgrounds and own beliefs are valued with each pupil having the opportunity to respond in their own way.

Collective worship in class may take place at any time during the day and should take no longer than 15 minutes.

Class teams may develop particular routines that:

- Use an action, object of reference, photo, Makaton sign and /or symbol to introduce and conclude the act of collective worship, e.g. lighting a candle, showing a special object, revealing or setting up
- a focal point.
- Include a period of silence prior to, during or following the act of collective worship
- Include a short piece of music to separate the act of collective worship from other school business
- Include the singing of songs and times of prayer or reflection.
- Include praise of achievements.
- Have a different type of collective worship for each day of the week

Collective worship at St Giles is an important part of the school's spiritual, moral, social and cultural education offer. Collective worship actively promotes the school values of Respect, Responsibility, Participation, Cooperation, Choice, Celebration and Community. These values reflect the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs'.

No child or adult should be expected to say, or affirm prayers or words of songs which they do not believe. It may be appropriate to adapt the words of a well-known song or to ask adults and children to listen to a prayer from a particular faith, possibly inviting those who know the prayer to join in with saying the words.

Collective worship at St Giles follows National and Local Authority guidance that the majority of acts of collective worship must be of a 'broadly Christian character'. Collective worship includes elements that are broadly in the tradition of other faiths, for instance when celebrating a festival such as Diwali or Eid.

Assemblies at St Giles

The assembly programmes are planned by each department under the leadership of their head of department.

Department assemblies are led by class teachers and cover a range of themes linking to the department topic, religious festivals from different faiths, British culture and values, Personal, Social, Health and Economic education (PSHE) and Social, Moral, Spiritual and Cultural education (SMSC). We acknowledge and cater for a diversity of beliefs, points of view, learning needs and communication needs allowing individuals to respond as individuals.

Departments come together to celebrate the Christian festivals of Christmas, Easter and Harvest Festival. The head teacher leads these assemblies and a member of the leadership team from a local church may be invited to lead the prayers. Parents and carers may be invited to special assemblies.

Assemblies include all of our pupils. Talk and information is balanced with sensory, interactive experiences so that each pupil can participate fully.

Assemblies are approximately 30 minutes long and follow a structure developed by each department to meet pupils' needs and create a special time and place to come together. There will be:

- ❖ a special beginning and end
- ❖ fun activities around the theme
- ❖ special music
- ❖ time for reflection or prayer
- ❖ celebration of individual achievements – special mentions, star of the week, merit awards

The right to withdraw

Information for parents on the right to withdraw their child from collective worship is given in the school's admission booklet. If parents request this the child would remain in their classroom during assemblies following alternative learning activities with a teaching assistant.

Staff have the right to withdraw from assemblies and should see the headteacher if they wish to discuss this further.

This Policy has been approved by the Governing Body of St Giles School at the meeting on

Signed: Chair of Governors

Signed: Headteacher

Assembly in Early Years

- ❖ **Music** Assembly themed music set up by the assembly lead
- ❖ **Gong** Once everyone is seated strike gong three times to signify the start of assembly
- ❖ **Assembly** 10-minute themed activity/presentation (or sharing work from each class)
- ❖ **Mentions** Photos of children from each class will be prepared before assembly. Display photo for each class (EY-Assembly-Mentions folder). Children to stay where they are but stand up if appropriate. All clap and person leading assembly blow bubbles towards the child. Sticker to be given.
- ❖ **Star of the week** Photo will be put into folder before assembly (EY-Assembly-Star of the week folder). Display picture. Child can stay where they are but stand up if appropriate. Adult leading takes chimes over and sounds the chimes next to the child. Sticker and certificate to be given
- ❖ **Birthdays** Photos will be put in folder before assembly (EY-Assembly-Birthdays folder). Display pictures. Child can stay where they are but stand up if appropriate. Sing Happy Birthday. Adult leading to give out party poppers to adult sat next to birthday child to let them off at end of the song. Sticker to be given.
- ❖ **Reflection** Hand candles out, main lights off, display a seasonal/reflective picture (from EY-Assembly-Reflections folder)
- ❖ **Gong** Play gong to signify end of assembly.
- ❖ **Music** To play while children and adults leave the hall – as arranged by the assembly lead

Assembly in Primary

- ❖ Music is played as children enter that either introduces the theme of the assembly or is a calm peaceful piece of music (lights low, possible PowerPoint photo or image)
- ❖ Welcome to the assembly – greet each class and reflect on the week we have had at school (highlight any special events)
- ❖ Main part of assembly to be based around a religious or cultural event, a specific event in the calendar or our current topic. This may be a class assembly where work and achievements are shared and should include a sensory experience for PMLD/SLD learners.
- ❖ Reflection time – have a PowerPoint with a key reflection point for the children to think about- pause and be still...
- ❖ Special mentions- a child from each class is chosen and their achievement is celebrated and they are awarded a sticker
- ❖ Star of the week- one person from Primary is chosen for their achievement and awarded with a certificate, sticker and the Primary star of the week trophy (this is done on rotation throughout each class)
- ❖ Birthdays- birthdays are celebrated with the 'Happy Birthday' song and birthday candles (battery operated) and the children are given a birthday sticker
- ❖ Music is played as the children leave assembly as at the beginning

Assembly in Secondary

The Secondary Department come together as a community once a week to share our achievements and celebrate important events. It is a time of celebration and reflection. Secondary assemblies use the following organisation:

- ❖ An assembly rota is planned by the Head of Department whereby staff select dates for their class to lead the assembly. The rota contains examples of religious festivals, key dates, dates in history and SEAL themes for staff to select from. This rota is then circulated to staff and the Head Teacher.
- ❖ Each assembly lasts approximately 30mins.
- ❖ Classes arrive to music playing that is linked to the theme of the assembly.
- ❖ The Head of Department welcomes the students and staff in a multi modal manner (Makaton, symbols and speech)and explains which class will be leading assembly.
- ❖ Awards are given at the start of assembly. These include “WOW” stickers which highlight students’ achievements in the week, certificates and Form Tutor awards and any other method of celebrating students’ successes.
- ❖ The class or teacher leading the assembly then begins their assembly. A typical assembly will involve all students and staff. Assemblies are multi-sensory in nature and activities are matched to students’ needs.
- ❖ The assembly concludes with a powerpoint slide of a flickering candle or some other kind of symbol to promote reflective worship.
- ❖ As children leave the hall music is played linked to the assembly theme.
- ❖ Parents and Carers can be invited for a class assembly at the class teacher’s discretion.