



Guidelines for Leading Collective Worship

Collective Worship is an important part of our daily school life. As a voluntary controlled school we choose it to be a broadly Christian experience providing an opportunity to worship God.

We take great pride in inviting visitors to take Collective Worship at Gorsley Goffs Primary School. To ensure it is a learning and inspiring experience for all, please take note of the following:

- ❖ 'Collective' worship is different from 'corporate' worship in faith communities. In all schools pupils and staff come together from various backgrounds: some Christian, some of different religions and some of none. It, therefore, must be suitable for all to be able to participate, whether actively joining in or listening reflectively. In an act of worship there should be an important idea - simple and clear - from which all can learn whatever the background.
- ❖ Collective Worship at Gorsley Goffs is an opportunity to share, not proselytize, so it is important to remember to say... Christians believe, The Bible says, In our church, Jesus taught ... Don't assume that pupils' presence at worship signifies their personal commitment or involvement. You should not impose on pupils words or attitudes which they cannot honestly express. Your task is not to compel worship, but to enable it.
- ❖ Please consider the age of the pupils present, it is important that all try and participate and learn from a clear message, whatever their background and beliefs.
- ❖ Please note that the format of our Collective Worship is: *a greeting, a song, teaching/input, time of reflection, a prayer, a dismissal.*
- ❖ Children will be brought into the hall and settled by the class teacher/headteacher who will remain responsible for behaviour of children throughout the Collective Worship.
- ❖ Music is played as children enter. If you would like to choose a piece of music then please ensure the school office knows in good time.
- ❖ You are welcome to ask for volunteers during the Collective Worship and to reward them please give house points instead of gifts e.g. chocolate.
- ❖ Prayer is a very important part of collective worship at Gorsley Goffs, and care needs to be given to the way that it is used, and how people are invited to participate. The visitor should use prayer (or a quiet moment for reflection) in a way that does not compromise the integrity of pupils or staff but encourages everyone to take part. Some ways of introducing it are as follows: *Let's be still*

and quiet now / Time to pray or think / Please listen carefully while I say / read a prayer Thought should also be given to how to end this time as well. It is possible to say at the start.... "If you agree with the prayer you might want to say, 'Amen'."

We are very grateful to all our visitors for their input into our Collective Worship at Gorsley Goffs and we welcome any comments or suggestions you may like to make. If our visitors have any concerns about leading Collective Worship please talk to the headteacher.