

Assembly policy

What is the purpose of this policy?

This policy describes the aims, content, and organisation of assemblies at Gospel Oak, ensuring they fulfil the requirements for collective worship as outlined in the SACRE guidance, with the recognition that the school has a determination in place. This means that collective worship at Gospel Oak is not religious and is designed to be inclusive of all pupils, regardless of their religious or non-religious backgrounds.

What does collective worship mean at Gospel Oak and what are the connections between collective worship and religious education (RE)?

At Gospel Oak, collective worship is a time when members of the school community come together to reflect on spiritual, moral, social, and cultural ideas. With a SACRE determination, collective worship is not tied to any specific religious tradition or broadly Christian character. Instead, it provides opportunities for moments of reflection and stillness that allow all children, regardless of faith or belief, to engage with the values and themes being explored.

Assemblies offer a space for reflection, where pupils can quietly consider what is important to them. This time is used to promote an understanding of values, ethics, and the common life of the school community, without any religious expectations.

What are the aims of assemblies (collective worship) at Gospel Oak?

1. To promote the overall aims of the school, reflecting Gospel Oak's commitment to the holistic development of pupils through spiritual, moral, social, and cultural exploration.
To build a sense of community by providing a shared time for reflection on themes that unite and support the school ethos, fostering inclusion and respect for diversity.
To offer opportunities for reflection and contemplation, encouraging pupils to engage with key questions in life, including ethical, moral, and social issues, in a non-religious context.
To celebrate diversity, recognise the wide variety of beliefs, values, and cultural backgrounds within the school, and ensure collective worship is inclusive for all.
To promote personal growth, helping pupils to develop qualities such as empathy, self-awareness, and respect for others through reflective practices and discussion.
2. To promote pupils' sense of being a member of the community of Gospel Oak School.
3. To promote spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. Assemblies:
 - provide pupils with the knowledge and insight into values and beliefs that enable them to reflect on their experiences in a way which develops their spiritual awareness and self-knowledge, (spiritual)
 - teach the principles which distinguish right from wrong, (moral)
 - encourage pupils to relate positively to others, take responsibility, participate fully in the community and develop an understanding of citizenship, (social)

- teach pupils to appreciate their cultural traditions and the diversity and richness of other cultures. (cultural)
4. To develop pupils' personal qualities including their self-esteem, their sense of identity, their appreciation of awe and wonder, their openness and tolerance, and their ability to reflect on these qualities and other aspects of life's fundamental experiences.
 5. To promote the school's commitment to equality of opportunity by celebrating, giving value to and learning about different ethnic and faith groups, in particular, those represented within the school community.
 6. To promote pupils' understanding of the cycle of the year through the exploration of the annual cycle of nature and the annual cycle of religious and non-religious celebrations.
 7. To promote pupils' moral development by exploring values and qualities that can be supported by both members of faith communities and by those who are not members of a faith community.

How are assemblies organised at Gospel Oak?

Children in all classes (except the nursery) take part in an act of collective worship each day. Gospel Oak is a large school so there is only one whole school assembly each half term. There are separate assemblies for key stages 1 and 2; and for the individual phases when necessary. Children in the reception classes sometimes join the other assemblies on three days a week and hold their own assemblies on the other two days.

| | KS1 | KS2 |
|-----------|--|---|
| Monday | An assembly led by a phase adult with a focus on a shared text or a topical event. | An assembly led by the Headteacher |
| Tuesday | An assembly with a focus on singing as a group. | Classroom assembly |
| Wednesday | Classroom assembly | An assembly with a focus on singing as a group. |
| Thursday | Team assembly led by the Phase Leader that includes promoting values and celebrating pupils' achievements. | Classroom assembly |
| Friday | Classroom assembly | An assembly led by the Headteacher or Phase Leader that includes promoting values and celebrating pupils' achievements. At the end of each half-term, a whole school assembly is held. |

How are the themes of the week selected?

Themes are chosen by the Senior Leadership Team to ensure that they are inclusive and supportive of the school's non-religious approach to collective worship. Themes reflect the school's values and promote the moral, social, and cultural development of pupils without any specific religious connotation.

The themes aim to foster reflection on universal values such as kindness, empathy, responsibility, and community. These themes allow all pupils, regardless of their faith or non-faith background, to find personal relevance and engage meaningfully.

How are assemblies and collective worship monitored?

The Headteacher and the RE Leader regularly monitor assemblies to ensure that they align with the school's SACRE determination and provide an inclusive, reflective experience for all pupils. This ensures that collective worship remains non-religious, promoting the spiritual and moral development of pupils in an open and respectful environment.

Legal Requirements and Parental Rights

In line with the SACRE determination, collective worship at Gospel Oak is not religious and is inclusive of all pupils. However, parents retain the right to withdraw their children from collective worship if they so wish. Any parent considering this option is encouraged to discuss their concerns with the Headteacher to explore possible alternatives.

Parents are reminded that the determination from SACRE allows the school to provide collective worship that is inclusive and non-denominational, supporting the development of all pupils without religious expectations.

These are suggested themes that act as guides. Other notable events may be used as the stimulus for assembly and collective worship as appropriate.

KS1

Autumn Term Themes:

Week 1: New Beginnings – Starting Something Special

The excitement of starting new things and the wonders we will discover this year.

Week 2: Being Kind to Each Other

The magic of how a little kindness can make someone's day shine brighter.

Week 3: Learning from Mistakes

The wonder of trying again and how mistakes help us grow into strong learners.

Week 4: Working Together – Teamwork

The fun and excitement of working together to make big things happen.

Week 5: Listening to Others

The amazing things we learn when we listen to the people around us.

Week 6: Being Brave – Facing New Challenges

The excitement that comes when we try something new and how brave we can be.

Week 7: Taking Care of Nature

The wonders of the plants, animals, and world around us, and how we can help take care of them.

Week 8: Celebrating Our Differences

The beauty of how we are all different, and how those differences make our world more colourful and interesting.

Week 9: Being Patient

The amazing things that happen when we wait and let things happen in their own time.

Week 10: Finding Solutions – Problem Solving

The excitement of using our brains to solve puzzles and fix problems together.

Week 11: Thinking About Our Feelings

The wonder of understanding how we feel inside and how we can help others when they feel sad, happy, or worried.

Week 12: Looking After Our Toys and Things

The importance of taking care of our things, and how they last longer when we treat them with care.

Week 13: The Joy of Giving to Others

The warm feeling we get when we share and give to others, making them smile.

Spring Term Themes:

Week 1: New Year – Trying New Things

The excitement of trying new things and all the adventures they can bring.

Week 2: Keep Trying – Never Give Up

The magic that happens when we keep trying, even if things feel tricky at first.

Week 3: Telling the Truth

How being honest helps us feel good inside and makes others trust us.

Week 4: Being a Good Friend

The joy of having friends and how we can be kind and caring to those around us.

Week 5: Staying Safe Online

Learning how to keep ourselves safe when we use the internet, just like we do in real life.

Week 6: Understanding How Others Feel

The magic of thinking about how our friends feel and helping them when they need it.

Week 7: Celebrating Our Unique Talents

The joy of knowing that everyone is special in their own way and has something amazing to share.

Week 8: Saying Sorry and Forgiving

The peace we feel when we say sorry and how good it feels to forgive someone.

Week 9: Sharing Fairly

The wonder of fairness and how sharing can make everyone feel happy and included.

Week 10: Looking After Our World

The wonder of nature and how we can all do small things to protect it.

Week 11: People Who Inspire Us

Learning about amazing people who have done wonderful things and how they can inspire us too.

Week 12: Looking Forward to the Future

The excitement of thinking about all the amazing things we can do and be in the future.

Summer Term Themes:

Week 1: Seeing the Good in Every Day

How looking for the good in each day helps us feel happy and makes each day special.

Week 2: Saying Thank You

The magic words “thank you” and how they make others feel happy and appreciated.

Week 3: Staying Healthy and Happy

The fun of looking after our bodies by eating well, exercising, and resting to keep our minds happy too.

Week 4: Thinking About the World

The awe of knowing that we are part of a big, beautiful world full of people, animals, and plants.

Week 5: Being Creative

The excitement of using our imaginations to create amazing things, from drawings to stories to games.

Week 6: Feeling OK When Things Don't Go Right

Learning that it's okay to feel sad or disappointed and how we can still find something good even when things don't go the way we hoped.

Week 7: Including Everyone

The wonder of making sure everyone feels welcome and included in what we do.

Week 8: Keeping Ourselves Safe

The importance of staying safe and how it helps us feel happy and secure.

Week 9: Staying Focused

The magic of paying attention to what we are doing and the great things we can accomplish when we try our best.

Week 10: Thinking About All We've Learned

Looking back and feeling proud of all the amazing things we've learned this year.

Week 11: Getting Ready for the Next Big Step

The excitement and wonder of moving on to new things and how we can be ready for the next adventure.

Week 12: Celebrating Our Achievements

The joy of celebrating everything we've done this year and how much we've grown.

KS2

Autumn Term Themes:

1. *Week 1: New Beginnings – Embracing Change*
The excitement of new opportunities and the thrill of a fresh start.
2. *Week 2: Kindness and Compassion*
The ripple effect of small acts of kindness – how we can improve the world.
3. *Week 3: Growth Mindset – Learning from Mistakes*
The wonder of how our brain grows stronger when we learn and try again.
4. *Week 4: Teamwork – Working Together*
The magic of collaboration and what we can achieve when we unite.
5. *Week 5: Respect – For Ourselves and Others*
Exploring the beauty of diversity and the power of mutual respect.
6. *Week 6: Courage and Confidence*
How remarkable moments of bravery can lead to unexpected and incredible outcomes.
7. *Week 7: Harvest and Gratitude for Nature's Bounty*
The awe-inspiring cycles of nature, and the gratitude we can feel for its abundance.
8. *Week 8: Understanding Diversity and Inclusion*
Celebrating the uniqueness of every individual and the wonder of a world full of differences.
9. *Week 9: Patience – Waiting for the Right Moment*
The amazing things that happen when we learn to be patient and trust the process.
10. *Week 10: Problem Solving – Facing Challenges*
The sense of achievement is when we overcome obstacles through creativity and determination.
11. *Week 11: The Power of Reflection*
Taking time to pause, think, and appreciate our growth and experiences.
12. *Week 12: Responsibility and Ownership*
The incredible impact we can have when we take responsibility for our actions and choices.
13. *Week 13: The Wonder of Giving*
How sharing with others can create moments of connection and joy.

Spring Term Themes:

1. *Week 1: New Year – Setting Goals*

The excitement of new adventures and the possibilities that lie ahead.

2. Week 2: Perseverance – Keeping Going

The extraordinary outcomes that come from never giving up, even when the journey is tough.

3. Week 3: Honesty and Integrity

The strength and trust that comes from being true to ourselves and others.

4. Week 4: Friendship – Building and Maintaining Bonds

The wonder of meaningful friendships and how they enrich our lives.

5. Week 5: E-Safety – Responsible Online Behaviour

Navigating the digital world safely and the power of making smart choices online.

6. Week 6: Empathy – Understanding Other Perspectives

The amazing ability to see the world through someone else's eyes and connect with their feelings.

7. Week 7: Celebrating Differences – Respect for All

Discovering the beauty in everyone's uniqueness and how it makes our world richer.

8. Week 8: Forgiveness and Moving On

The sense of freedom and peace that comes with letting go of past hurts.

9. Week 9: Fairness and Equality

The deep satisfaction of knowing everyone is treated fairly and the wonder of equality.

10. Week 10: Taking Care of Our Environment

Exploring the natural wonders of the Earth and our role in protecting them.

11. Week 11: Inspirational Figures – Learning from Role Models

The awe we feel when we learn about people who have changed the world with their vision and courage.

12. Week 12: Hope for the Future

The sense of possibility and optimism when we look forward to what's ahead.

Summer Term Themes:

1. Week 1: Positivity – Focusing on the Good

How a positive outlook can transform our experiences and open new doors.

2. Week 2: Gratitude – Appreciating What We Have

Recognizing the wonders around us, big and small, and the joy they bring.

3. Week 3: Healthy Body, Healthy Mind

The fascinating connection between taking care of our body and how it helps our mind thrive.

4. Week 4: Global Citizenship – Thinking Beyond Ourselves

Feeling a sense of wonder about how we are all connected across the world and the difference we can make globally.

5. Week 5: Creativity and Innovation

The excitement and magic of thinking differently and coming up with new ideas.

6. Week 6: Dealing with Disappointment

Discovering the hidden opportunities in setbacks and how they help us grow.

7. Week 7: Inclusivity – Welcoming Everyone

The sense of belonging comes when we include everyone and make space for all voices.

8. Week 8: Safety – Staying Safe in Different Environments

Exploring the ways we can stay safe and how looking after ourselves and others is a powerful act.

9. Week 9: Self-Discipline and Focus

The awe of what we can achieve when we stay focused and disciplined in our goals.

10. Week 10: Reflection – Looking Back on the Year

The wonder of looking back at our achievements, growth, and moments of joy throughout the year.

11. Week 11: Moving On – Transition to the Next Stage

The excitement and wonder of stepping into new adventures and experiences.

12. Week 12: End of Year Celebration and Achievements

Celebrating the incredible journey we've been on and the amazement of all we've accomplished.