



# Collective Worship Policy

**Date reviewed: September 2026**

**Signed by Chair of Governors:**

**Signed by Headteacher:**

**Date of next review: September 2027**

# 1. Collective Worship Policy

## 1.1 Introduction

Collective worship is central to the life and purposes of our school and is fundamental to the development of its Christian foundation, vision, values and ethos. The headteacher will be responsible for establishing policy in consultation with the governing body.

**Vision statement:** To nurture our children's curiosity and creativity through partnership with our community, enabling them to be the best versions of themselves. We will grow together in ... Curiosity, Creativity and Community.

Collective worship provides a space and a place for the telling of the Christian story, the mutual giving and receiving of worth as well as times of reflection and prayer. At its best, collective worship is inspirational and transformational. The Church school is a community which is inspired by the Christian understanding of God as Trinity. God the Father, the source of all being and life; God the Son, who reveals God's love by his life, death and resurrection; and God the Holy Spirit, who makes Christ known in the world. The fundamental part that worship plays in the life of the school requires that it is given the highest priority and there is an expectation that all members of the community will be present unless they specifically request to withdraw.

## 1.2 Legal Framework

There must be a daily act of collective worship for all pupils that takes account of their age and aptitude. The 1988 Education Reform Act states parents have the right to withdraw children from collective worship and suitable arrangements will be made to accommodate these children. However, as collective worship occupies a central place in the life of the Church school, there is an expectation that parents wishing to request a withdrawal will meet with the head teacher to discuss their concerns and requirements.

The governors in a Church school have the responsibility for ensuring that the school meets the requirements for worship detailed in the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Evaluation Document. They are also tasked with monitoring and evaluating the impact of worship on the school community in consultation with the head teacher.

## 1.3 Aims

*Collective worship in our school aims to:*

- provide an experience of worship that will offer opportunities for those present to respond to the presence, power and peace of God.
- evoke a sense of beauty, awe, wonder.
- enable children to become familiar with the Bible and grow in their appreciation that for Christians it is God's word.
- provide opportunities for reflection, participation, challenge and enjoyment where all present can be actively involved and develop their own spirituality.
- help children to become familiar with Christian language and symbolism and the cycle of the Church year so that they are offered a pattern of meanings and a

framework into which they can begin to integrate experience.

- explore a variety of ways of praying, giving children the opportunity to form their own prayers using multi - sensory foci and introduce them to some well-known Christian prayers, as well as a variety of prayers of thanksgiving before mealtimes.
- offer opportunities to all children and staff to develop their skills in planning, leading and evaluating the impact of school worship.
- strengthen and support the school community, giving expression to, and reaffirming, the core Christian values which underpin the school's vision, policies, curriculum and moral code.
- develop a sense of self-worth and celebrate the gifts that each child and adult brings to the school community, recognising the uniqueness of each individual made in the image of God.
- reflect on the puzzling questions that life poses and learn to appreciate the significance of mystery i.e. that we can't understand and explain everything.
- foster a concern for others within the school community and wider world.
- deepen appreciation of the gift of the natural world and the importance of acting responsibly toward the environment.
- encourage respect of other people's religious beliefs and practices as well as those without a specific religious belief.
- enable children to grow spiritually, emotionally, socially, morally, culturally.

## 1.4 Guidelines, planning and leadership

- Collective worship and Religious Education are separate activities, although in our school they often reinforce each other.
- We will hold our act of worship daily, usually in school for typically fifteen minutes.
- The Headteacher Acts of Worship each a week, including the school values.
- Teachers also lead Worship through celebration on a rotation.
- We use silence, stories, stillness, music, video and other means to aid reflection and facilitate prayer.
- Our acts of worship are planned termly with weekly themes that are reflected in our school values.
- We sometimes use different settings for our worship, for example St Mary's Church, the Village Hall or the Island.
- Our school's Christian values are explored in turn on a termly basis and used as a starting point to explore how we live out other Christian values such as Thankfulness and Perseverance.
- The school's values are supported by a Bible story and Bible verse each term.
- British values are explicitly or implicitly included in the planning for worship.
- Our collective worship follows a pattern which typically includes saying welcome words whilst lighting the three candles 'We are gathered in the name of God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit to worship together and think about our value of....'. We then share the school vision and follow the Windows, Mirrors and Doors structure to encourage the children to look outwards, reflect and then apply what we have talked about.
- All staff and visitors who lead Collective Worship are expected to follow this pattern of Worship and resources will be provided to do so.

The weekly pattern of Collective Worship can be seen here:

| <b>Monday</b>                                                                                                               | <b>Tuesday</b>                            | <b>Wednesday</b>                      | <b>Thursday</b>                         | <b>Friday</b>                                                                                           |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Bringing the Values to life through:<br/>Bible stories<br/>British values<br/>World Faiths<br/>Diversity<br/>Topical</b> | <b>All staff: Worship through singing</b> | <b>In class: through Picture News</b> | <b>All staff: Thankfulness Tuesdays</b> | <b>All staff: Worship through celebration</b><br><br><b>In church alternate weeks, led by our Vicar</b> |

## 1.5 Monitoring and Evaluation

Collective worship is monitored and evaluated by the governing board.

Pupils are encouraged to give feedback on the collective worship using a variety of methods but mostly through pupil conferencing and through interactive displays. Children are also interviewed by governors during Collective Worship monitoring.

The headteacher works with the children to help improve collective worship.