



Collective Worship Policy

November 2024 – 2026

Our School Vision

Our Christian faith underpins the life of the school, and through God's enduring love, we create a nurturing and caring environment where our pupils develop in body mind and spirit.

Through love, patience and kindness, our children are encouraged to learn and grow together to realise their full potential.

"I can do all things through Him who strengthens me."

Philippians 4:13

Our School Values

Love of Learning

Love of God

Love of One Another

Table of Contents

	page
The aims of Collective Worship	4
Legal Status of Collective Worship	4
The provision of Collective Worship	4
Guidelines for acts of Collective Worship	5
Rights of Withdrawal	6
Planning, Recording and Evaluation	7
Resources	7
Appendix 1	8
Appendix 1 continued	9

The aims of Collective Worship

This policy aims to ensure that everyone associated with our school's community recognises the place of worship within our school and how we use and promote worship.

It is our aim that worship should:

- Explore the school's vision and how that underpins shared values and virtues. Doing so will reflect on moral values such as compassion, gratitude, justice, humility, forgiveness and reconciliation; and develop virtues such as resilience, determination and creativity that develop character and contribute to academic progress.
- Contribute to each child's spiritual, social, moral and cultural development.
- The Core Learning Skills programme supports our pupils' social and emotional development.
- Help pupils and adults to appreciate the relevance of faith in today's world by encountering the teachings of Jesus and the Bible and developing an understanding of the Christian belief in the Trinitarian nature of God.
- Give expression to, and reaffirm and practice the values of the school community
- Allow quiet reflection and thoughtful responses to the fundamental questions of life and those things that are of eternal concern and value to human beings. Offer the opportunity, without compulsion, to all pupils and adults to grow spiritually through experiences of prayer, stillness, worship and reflection
- Celebrate and give thanks for the achievements within the school's, local, national and international community and occasions of significance, including festivals.
- Foster and enable a concern for the needs of others; a recognition of the vulnerability of self and others.
- Give pupils an experience of broadly Christian worship within an Anglican framework to help our pupils to begin to understand the nature and purpose of worship.
- Enable all pupils and adults to appreciate that Christians worship in different ways, such as music, silence, story, prayer, and reflection, as well as through the varied liturgical and other traditions of Anglican worship, festivals and, where appropriate, the Eucharist.
- Allow pupils to reflect upon, explore and be challenged by their own beliefs and those of others.
- To foster a caring attitude towards others, the environment and the wider world.
- Enable pupils to develop feelings of awe, wonder, reverence and respect.
- Enable pupils to develop skills by planning, leading and evaluating collective worship in ways that improve practice.

Legal status of Collective Worship:

The 1988 Education Reform Act requires that 'all pupils in attendance at a maintained school shall on each day take part in the act of Collective Worship.' We seek to do our best to keep the spirit of this legislation seeking to provide as many high-quality acts of worship as is practically possible.

All acts of worship are in accordance with the guidance issued in the DfE Circular 1/94, which states that 'Collective Worship in schools should aim to provide the opportunity for pupils to worship God, to consider their own beliefs; to encourage participation and response, whether through active worship or through listening to and joining in the worship offered; and to develop community spirit, promote the ethos and shared values, and reinforce positive attitudes.'

The Provision of Collective Worship:

In providing acts of Collective Worship, the ages, aptitudes and family backgrounds of the children should be taken into account. We recognise that there is a difference between acts of Collective Worship and the assembly of pupils.

On some occasions, an assembly may proceed or follow an act of Collective Worship. When this happens, the transition from assembly to worship will be marked in a suitable way. In this policy, we refer to assembly in the context that it always includes an act of collective worship.

There is a daily act of Collective Worship. We acknowledge that Christians worship in various ways, and we recognise this diversity of practice. We celebrate God as Creator, Jesus as the Son of God and the work of the Holy Spirit in the lives of believers. The importance of the Bible and the Church as the foundations of Christianity are also celebrated, and shared values enrich our daily act of worship.

A programme of collective worship is planned for the year. The programme will reflect the life and work of the school and the local community, making appropriate links with the PSHCE scheme of work. The programme will contain themes that during the school year are likely to centre around:

- Shared values
- Religious festivals and special days meet to celebrate and mark certain seasons in the Church calendar, such as Lent, Easter, Harvest and Advent.
- Annual events and anniversaries
- Aspects of the school curriculum

Those leading worship are encouraged to relate their worship to these themes. The themes chosen are broad enough to allow all those leading worship to approach the theme from their own perspective. This will mean that by the end of the week, the pupils will have the opportunity to reflect on the theme from various viewpoints. Alternatively, classroom teachers may develop their worship from themes and events that occur in the curriculum during the week.

This format is flexible, and it is recognised that staff members may feel that they need to respond to local, national or global events. However, generally, worship will take the form of a welcome or prayer followed by a consideration of a Bible passage or story that the group can then reflect on through discussion, prayer, silent reflection or music

We seek to encourage pupils to voice their views on Collective Worship we have and to have the opportunity to lead CW and be part of the evaluation process.

Spiritual and Moral Development

Spiritual and moral development is a life-long process, and in the life of children, it is shared between parents/carers, the school and the wider community. We acknowledge the wide variety of beliefs that make up our communities; however, our policy reflects the Christian foundation of our school.

We aim to foster the values and morals based on Christian teaching, which are shared by the major world faiths.

Prayer

Pupils are encouraged to reflect on the following in their own prayers:

- Praise,
- Saying sorry for the things done wrong by us and others,
- Asking for things for ourselves and others,
- Giving thanks,
- Listening to God, and
- Meditating on the wonders of God and creation.

Guidelines for acts of Collective Worship

- Assemblies are a special time of the day and should be distinguishable from other school activities.

- Children should be given opportunities to understand the aims and purposes of assemblies laid out in this policy.
- Assemblies should use common words to help children understand the parts of the assembly and collective worship and the processes.
- Pupils should enter and leave assemblies quietly and orderly, preferably not talking.
- Music should be played as children enter and leave the assembly.
- Assemblies will normally include a song.
- No child or adult is made to pray, say, or sing words they do not believe.
- During prayer, children have the opportunity to pray with us or be still/quiet and reflect.
- During the assembly, the children should also be allowed to be still and reflect in an atmosphere of peace and tranquillity.
- The setting for the assembly should be made as attractive as possible. It is often helpful if something is set up as a visual focus for those present.
- Children will have the opportunity to participate in a variety of ways, including:
 - a. Celebrating a range of educational achievements.
 - b. Performing drama, role-plays, singing, reading, listening and performing.
 - c. Playing music.
 - d. Quietly contemplating and praying.
- All teachers and support staff will be encouraged to participate.
- The assembly leader should be at the front of the assembly when the children arrive. Visiting speakers should be introduced by a member of staff and thanked at the end of the assembly.

A variety of approaches will be used in assemblies:

- Whole school assemblies led by a member of staff or clergy attended by all children and teaching staff, except those who have exercised their right to withdraw or who have made prior arrangements with the Headteacher
- Class assemblies are led by classes on rotation, led by the class teacher.
- Key Stage or class-based assemblies
- **Pupils in the Nursery and Reception classes conduct an act of collective worship in their classes each day.** In addition, reception pupils join the whole school and phase assemblies when appropriate.
- Some assemblies will contain a higher proportion of collective worship than others.

Rights of Withdrawal

We respect the right of parents/carers to withdraw their children from Collective Worship.

Withdrawal will only be made following a discussion with the Headteacher. This will then be followed by written confirmation of withdrawal. The Headteacher will keep a record of pupils who are withdrawn from Collective Worship.

The school has a system of suitable supervision for pupils withdrawn from acts of Collective Worship; however, no additional work is set or followed during this time.

All staff members, including the Headteacher, have the right to withdraw from Collective Worship. However, the Headteacher, should they wish to exercise this right, will maintain the statutory accountability for acts of Collective Worship. This right of withdrawal does not extend to school assemblies.

Planning, Recording and Evaluation

Collective worship is treated like any other part of the school curriculum regarding planning, delivery, resourcing and evaluation. Therefore, the content and methodology of Collective Worship will be varied, and there should be evidence of this in planning.

A link Governor will monitor the provision of collective worship. This monitoring will include and meaningfully involve pupil voice. Those facilitating worship should have the opportunity to receive feedback and hear the outcome of the evaluation.

Resources:

Appropriate resources such as books, artefacts/visual aids, websites posters, candles, Bibles and a cross are available in the school. In addition, the school has close links with St John of Jerusalem Church which provides a great resource base for the school Note:

This policy will be reviewed bi-annually

Review Date: November 2024

Next Review Date: November 2026

Appendix 1

Recommended Resources to Support Collective Worship

- Church of England guidance on collective worship www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2021-05/Collective%20Worship%20Guidance%2018052021.pdf
- Margaret Cooling: More assemblies for primary schools: One book per term
- Roots and Fruits www.imaginer.co.uk/roots-fruits/
- Jack in the box worship www.imaginer.co.uk/jack-box-worship/
- Flippin' Praise www.cofesuffolk.org/schools/school-leaders/collective-worship/collective-worship-resources/#FP
- Margaret Cooling: Wisdom of Worship
- Margaret Cooling: Cracking assemblies

Useful Websites

- www.worshipworkshop.org.uk
- www.staplefordresources.co.uk
- www.prayerspacesinschools.com

www.cofesuffolk.org/schools/school-leaders/collective-worship/collective-worship-resources/#FP – Flippin' Praise

Heartsmart Family

www.isingpop.org/ iSingPOP is a primary school music project that brings together school, church and community. A range of songs to support worship have been found here.

www.imaginer.co.uk/journey-into-pentecost-2/ Journey into Pentecost

www.imaginer.co.uk/roots-fruits/ Roots and Fruits

The Church of England's [#faithathome](https://www.churchofengland.org/faith-at-home/) has worship materials created and led by children, young people and staff from schools across the Church of England network.

www.staplefordresources.co.uk

[Wintershall Education](http://www.worshipworkshop.org.uk) has resources for use in school and at home.

[worshipworkshop.org.uk](http://www.worshipworkshop.org.uk)

Supporting Documents

- [Further Guidance on Collective Worship](#)

Planning, Monitoring and Evaluating Worship

- [Collective Worship Planning Format 1a](#)
- [Collective Worship Planning Format 1b](#)
- [Collective Worship observation sheet for children](#)
- [Monitoring and evaluating Collective Worship](#)
- [Monitoring an act of worship](#)

New resources – July 2022

- Faith in the Nexus: *How do church primary schools facilitate opportunities for children's exploration of faith and spiritual life in the home?* <https://nicer.org.uk/faith-in-the-nexus>
- Growing Faith: *The Growing Faith Adventure is a call for the renewal of hearts and minds so that it becomes second nature to include and value children, young people and households in every aspect of church life for the lifelong formation of faith in the whole of life.* <https://www.churchofengland.org/about/renewal-reform/growing-faith>

Exemplars to support delivering collective worship in the classroom

- [Approaches to class worship](#)
- [Collective worship exemplar for how to structure class worship](#)
- [Collective worship exemplar based on 'take home' questions](#)
- [Collective worship exemplar for how to lead a prayer circle](#)
- [Collective worship exemplar based on prayer reflection areas](#)
- [Appendix 1 prayer reflection areas](#)
- <https://www.isingpop.org/classroom-worship>

A resource to support collective worship in the classroom.

Themed collective worship

- [Abundance](#)
- [Don't Worry](#)
- [Forgiveness](#)
- [Good News](#)
- [Gratitude](#)
- [Hospitality](#)
- [I am the way](#)
- [Inclusion](#)
- [Journey Into Pentecost](#)
- [Journeys and Moving on](#)
- [Light in our darkness](#)
- [Love one another](#)
- [New life](#)
- [Others first](#)
- [Ready, steady, go](#)
- [Remembering](#)
- [Seeing](#)
- [Thank you](#)
- [The greatest commandment](#)
- [Waiting](#)

Resources to support prayer

- www.prayerspacesinschools.com
- [Coronavirus prayer resources for children from the Church of England](#)
- [Prayers for Marking a Year of Covid-19 \(reflective colouring pages\)](#)