

Collective Worship Policy

1. Purpose and Christian Vision

Collective worship is central to the life of our school. It reflects and strengthens our Christian vision, shaping the ethos, relationships, and daily practices of the whole community. Worship offers every pupil and adult the opportunity to grow spiritually, morally, socially, and culturally, and to encounter the teachings and person of Jesus Christ in ways that are invitational, inclusive, and inspiring.

Our worship is rooted in the Church of England's Vision for Education ("Deeply Christian, serving the Common Good") — built upon the aspirations of wisdom, hope, community, and dignity—and seeking to nurture the whole child.

2. Legal Framework

This policy fulfils the statutory requirements for collective worship originating out of the Education Reform Act 1988 and subsequent guidance.

- Collective worship is provided daily for all registered pupils.
- Worship is wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character.
- Parents have the right to withdraw their children from collective worship.
- Staff may withdraw on grounds of conscience.
- The governing body, in consultation with the headteacher and clergy, is responsible for ensuring statutory compliance.

3. Aims of Collective Worship

Collective worship in our school aims to:

- Offer opportunities to encounter biblical teaching, Christian values, and the life of Jesus.
- Provide space for stillness, reflection, prayer, and spiritual growth.
- Celebrate the diversity of the school community while remaining rooted in Christian tradition.
- Develop understanding of the Christian liturgical year and Anglican practice.
- Encourage pupils to explore big questions, moral choices, and their own beliefs.
- Strengthen the sense of community, belonging, and shared purpose.
- Inspire pupils to live out values such as compassion, forgiveness, justice, and courage.

4. Principles Shaping Worship

Worship in our school is:

- Inclusive — accessible to pupils of all faiths and none, without assuming belief.
- Invitational — offering, not imposing, opportunities for prayer and reflection.
- Inspirational — encouraging pupils to think deeply and act with integrity.
- Interactive — involving pupils through music, drama, storytelling, silence, and discussion.
- Rooted in Scripture — drawing on the Bible as a source of wisdom and hope.
- Distinctively Anglican — using elements such as liturgical greetings, responses, candles, and the church calendar.

5. Pattern and Structure of Worship

Worship takes place daily and may be held as:

- Whole school worship
- Key stage worship
- Class worship
- Church based worship (led by clergy or school staff)
- Special services (Harvest, Christmas, Easter, School Leavers)

A typical act of worship includes:

- Gathering — a liturgical greeting, music, or lighting a candle
- Engaging — story, scripture, drama, reflection, or teaching
- Responding — prayer, silence, song, discussion, or creative activity
- Sending — a blessing, dismissal, or challenge to live out the theme

6. Themes and Planning

Worship is planned on a half termly cycle, drawing on:

- The school's Christian vision and values
- The liturgical year
- Bible stories and themes
- Global issues, festivals, and national events
- Pupil led ideas and contributions

Clergy, staff, and pupils contribute to planning. Worship is evaluated regularly to ensure quality and relevance.

7. Roles and Responsibilities

- Headteacher: ensures worship is well resourced, inclusive, and compliant.
- Collective Worship Lead: coordinates planning, supports staff, liaises with clergy, monitors impact.
- Clergy/Church Partners: lead worship regularly, support theological depth, and strengthen church–school links.
- Staff: model respectful participation and lead worship as appropriate.
- Pupils: contribute readings, prayers, drama, music, and leadership.
- Governors: monitor worship, receive reports, and ensure statutory requirements are met.

8. Prayer and Reflection

Prayer is offered in ways that are invitational and respectful. Pupils may:

- Join in spoken prayers
- Listen quietly
- Offer their own prayers
- Use silence for reflection
- Engage with prayer stations or reflective spaces

The school maintains a dedicated reflection area in all classrooms.

9. Inclusion and Withdrawal

Worship is designed to be accessible to all.

Parents wishing to withdraw their child should meet with the headteacher to discuss the request. Alternative supervision will be provided, though the school encourages participation in the community aspect of worship.

10. Monitoring and Evaluation

Worship is reviewed through:

- Pupil voice
- Staff feedback
- Clergy reflections
- Governor monitoring visits
- SIAMS self-evaluation

Findings inform future planning and development.

11. Safeguarding

All worship leaders, including visitors, must follow the school's safeguarding policy. Worship content must be age appropriate and sensitive to pupils' backgrounds and experiences.

12. Review

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Full Governing Body following a recommendation by the Ethos Committee.

3rd March 2026