



Trinity St Mary's Church of England Primary School

Collective Worship Policy

Summer Term 2026

"Many Hearts Make A School"



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Introduction

Our Collective Worship Policy strengthens and supports the Christian ethos of our school, explores our vision enabling every child to flourish and the associated values we derive from them. Our worship reflects the variety of traditions found in the Church of England and will recognise and follow the Christian liturgical year.

Worship in our school is not simply a statutory duty. The daily Christian act of Collective Worship is the heartbeat of our school, central to our ethos and is supported by all staff and governors. It makes an important contribution to the overall spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of the whole school community.

The aims and purpose of Collective Worship as defined by the Education Reform Act 1988 are as follows:

- To provide an opportunity for the children to worship God.
- To enable children to consider spiritual and moral issues.
- To enable children to explore their own beliefs.
- To encourage participation and response
- To develop in children a sense of community spirit
- To promote a common ethos with shared values and to reinforce positive attitudes.

Legal Requirements

We seek to comply with the schools Standards and Framework Act 1998 (Section 70 and Schedule 20 which requires that:

- All registered pupils (apart from those whose parents exercise the right to withdrawal) must on each day take part in an act of Collective Worship.
- The daily act of Collective Worship should be conducted in accordance with the provisions and the ethos statement of the school, and should be consistent with the beliefs and practices of the Church of England.
- All acts of Collective Worship in our school must be Christian in character. Pupils can be grouped in various ways for worship such as the whole school, year groups, classes, or other combinations.
- Acts of worship must be appropriate for the pupils in that they should take account of the pupils' age, aptitude and family backgrounds.
- The daily act of Collective Worship will normally take place in The Holy Trinity Church premises but school is also able to hold their Act of Collective Worship elsewhere.
- Responsibility for the arrangement of Collective Worship in a Church of England rests with the Local Governing Body in consultation with the Headteacher.

Principles of Collective Worship

Each adult and pupil will experience worship that is truly welcoming, inclusive and exemplifies the principles of Christian hospitality (see Church of England's Collective Worship Guidance).¹ Collective Worship therefore will be:

- **Inclusive** – Our acts of worship recognise that pupils and staff come from homes of different faith backgrounds as well as no faith backgrounds, so it will be inclusive of, and fully accessible to all. Care will be taken to ensure that language used by those facilitating worship avoids assuming faith of those participating, listening or watching.
- **Invitational** – In our acts of worship, there is no compulsion to 'do anything'. Rather, worship will provide the opportunity to engage whilst allowing the freedom of those of different faiths and those who profess no religious faith to be present and to engage with integrity. Pupils and adults will only be invited to pray and sing if they wish to do so.
- **Inspiring** – By asking and discussing big questions about who we are and what we do in worship we hope to motivate pupils and adults into action. There will be opportunities to think, reflect and ponder on their and the wider community's behaviour and actions.

Implementation

In addition to the above, we seek to provide acts of Collective Worship that reflect the faith and practice of the Church of England. Therefore:

- We use the Bible as a sourcebook for inspiration and learning and make pupils familiar with the Lord's Prayer, psalms and other verses of scripture. We also introduce them to a variety of well known prayers – many of which express the central beliefs of Christians throughout the ages.
- We use aspects of Anglican liturgy to create a framework for worship: gather, engage, respond, send. We observe the cycle of the Anglican year including celebrations of the major Christian festivals.
- We aim to provide a worship spaces which are attractive and well prepared with appropriate thought having been given to colour, space, seating, ambience and music.
- We foster links with the Diocese, Holy Trinity church and involving the Reverend Jacqui in leading Collective Worship and providing coherence between worship in church and regular visits.
- We recognise that different members of our school community spiritually reflect in different ways. Music, story, silence, prayer, drama and other approaches are incorporated within a varied collective worship offer.

Connections with other Christian denominations and faiths

The Anglican Communion sees itself as part of a global church and promotes ecumenism. At Trinity St. Mary's C of E Primary School, we work to promote links with other local churches and Christian organisations and welcome their clergy and leaders as contributors to acts of collective worship. We recognise that while some of our pupils and families belong to Anglican churches, many worship regularly at churches of other Christian denominations, while others come from different faith backgrounds or none. We endeavour to provide a setting in which the integrity of those present is not compromised, where everyone finds something positive for themselves and there is no pressure to participate inappropriately or to believe.

Rights and Responsibilities

As established by the 1944 Act and reinforced through this policy, parents have the right to withdraw their children from Collective Worship. However, having chosen to send their children to Trinity St. Mary's C of E Primary School, it is hoped that no one will exercise this right. Should such a situation arise, appropriate arrangements would be made in keeping with the requirements of the Act.

Our Collective Worship Pattern and Practice

Leadership

Collective worship is led by a variety of individuals and groups, reflecting our inclusive and community-focused approach. Leadership of worship is shared among:

- School staff, including the headteacher and other teaching staff
- Whole classes, individual pupils and Worship Warriors, who occasionally take part in planning or delivering aspects of worship
- External visitors

This variety ensures pupils experience a wide range of voices, styles, and themes, helping them engage with spiritual and moral development in meaningful ways.

Collective worship is held daily at the following times:

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday at 9.10am.

Friday Collective Worship takes place in the classrooms.

Each session typically lasts around 20 minutes, providing a reflective and purposeful start to the day, or a meaningful pause within it.

Planning

1. How worship is planned and who is involved?

- Collective Worship is planned half-termly by the Collective Worship Lead in consultation with the Headteacher.
- Plans ensure a balance of themes linked to the Church year, our Christian values, and current world issues.

2. Equipping all members of the school community to plan and lead worship

- Every teacher leads Collective Worship regularly.
- A dedicated group of Year 6 pupils, the Worship Warriors, guide our school's spirituality journey supporting worship delivery.

3. Worship and the Church year

- We celebrate key festivals—Harvest, Christmas, Easter, and Pentecost.
- Themes across the year reflect the liturgical seasons of the Anglican Church.

4. Christian values in Collective Worship

- Our Christian values are explored weekly alongside studying Bible stories.

5. Linking Bible stories to Christian values

- Bible stories are consistently connected to our school's core values, helping children see how scripture guides everyday life.

6. Worship pattern and Anglican tradition

Worship follows a recognisable Anglican pattern:

Gathering with music or a candle to create a reflective atmosphere.

Engaging with scripture, story, drama, or multimedia.

Responding through prayer, song, and reflection.

Sending with a blessing or school prayer.

7. Range and variety of materials

- We use a variety of materials to deliver worship including drama scripts, film clips, music, artwork, artefacts, and focal points (such as a cross, picture, or candle) to inspire and engage pupils.

8. Spiritual growth through prayer, stillness, and reflection

- Each act of worship includes time for stillness and personal reflection.
- Our school prayer is said at the end of every worship.
- Celebration assemblies invite reflection on the week while music on entry and exit nurtures a calm, thoughtful atmosphere.

Organisation of Collective Worship

Groupings for Worship

- Collective Worship is primarily held as a **whole-school gathering** in the church.
- On occasion, worship may also be organised for **key stage** or **class groups** to explore themes in a more intimate setting.

Settings and Atmosphere

- Worship usually takes place in the church, which is prepared to create a **sense of reverence and focus**.
- **Music** is played as children enter and leave to encourage reflection and stillness.
- A **cross** is visible at the front during worship, serving as a reminder of God's presence.
- **Liturgical colours** appropriate to the Church year are incorporated through cloths or displays, alongside other **Christian symbols and candles** to mark special seasons and celebrations.

Ritual and Liturgical Responses

- Children and staff are invited to join in **simple liturgical responses**—for example, greetings, prayers, and blessings—that reflect Anglican tradition.
- The school prayer is said at the end of each act of worship, reinforcing our shared faith and community.

Visitor Leaders to Collective Worship

We welcome visitors to lead and participate in our Collective Worship. Visiting Collective Worship

The welcoming Worship Lead will discuss with the visitor, prior to the visitor leading Collective Worship, the content, expectations and practices of Collective Worship. The purpose is to ascertain its suitability for the school community. Visitors are never left alone with children as the supervision of pupils remains the responsibility of school staff.

Contribution to Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development

We recognise that although SMSC development should be fostered across the whole curriculum, acts of Collective Worship provide a multitude of opportunities in this area. For example, children will be encouraged to reflect on and celebrate the deeper meanings of life, consider their own behaviour and recognise the need for forgiveness, appreciate the contributions of others and respond to their needs, value their own culture and the cultures of others.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Collective Worship is monitored by the Headteacher; Collective Worship leaders in the school and several of our Foundation Governors and the DBE.

Inclusion

We are committed to equality of opportunity regardless of race, gender, cultural background, ability or any physical or sensory disability. We therefore aim to make Collective Worship accessible to all and accommodate ourselves to individual needs when appropriate.

Implementation of Policy

The headteacher and Collective Worship Lead are responsible for this policy which will be reviewed every three years. Its implementation is the responsibility of all those planning and leading Collective Worship.

Review

This policy will be reviewed every three years.