



Collective Worship Policy

Date written:	May 2021
Date adopted/reviewed:	February 2025
Review schedule:	Triennially
Policy Area:	Curriculum

1. Aims and Ethos

At All Saints CE Primary School & Nursery it is our aim to raise standards by promoting a school ethos that is underpinned by core Christian values. Our Christian values support all areas of learning and can contribute to pupils' motivation to learn. It is recognised that this will be most successful when the values and attitudes promoted by the staff provide a model of behaviour for the children. All our policies and decision making are formed through the lenses of these Christian values to ensure that our school lives them out in all aspects of its collective life.

2. A school vision for Collective Worship

"First of all, my child, worship and adore God, think of Him magnificently." - William Law

As a Church of England school, worship is an affirmation and celebration of our Christian ethos, where children and adults have the opportunity to learn, worship and grow in their understanding of God and of themselves. It is not simply a statutory duty. It is the 'heartbeat' of everything we do and an expression of our school's Christian vision and values.

In our school, we want to see Collective Worship enable pupils and staff to gather together to respond to the presence, power and peace of God through prayer, reflection, singing, celebrating and sharing feelings. Worship should enable participants to develop an understanding of the Christian belief in God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

We recognise that not all staff or children have a Christian faith. We welcome everyone to Collective Worship and offer it as a shared space for reflection and spiritual growth where our communities grow together in love and respect. To this extent, we expect all Collective Worship to be invitational, inclusive and inspiring.

3. Legal Requirements

All schools must take note of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 (Section 70 and Schedule 20) which requires that:

1. All registered pupils (apart from those whose parents exercise the right to withdrawal) must on each school day take part in an act of Collective Worship.
2. The daily act of Collective Worship should be conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Trust Deeds of the school and the ethos statement in the Instrument of Government and should be consistent with the beliefs and practices of the Church of England.
3. All acts of Collective Worship in Church schools must be Christian in character. Pupils can be grouped in various ways for worship such as the whole school, year groups, tutor groups, classes, or other combinations.
4. Acts of worship must be appropriate for the pupils in that they should take account of the pupils' age, aptitude and family backgrounds.

5. The daily act of Collective Worship will normally take place on the school premises, but all schools may hold their Act of Collective Worship elsewhere (e.g. the local Parish Church) on special occasions.
6. Responsibility for the arrangement of Collective Worship in a Church of England school rests with the Local Governing Body in consultation with the Headteacher. Foundation Governors have a special role in ensuring the Collective Worship is linked to the Trust Deeds.
7. The Headteacher has a responsibility to ensure all arrangements for CW are secured.

4. Anglican Faith and Practice

In addition to the above, we provide acts of Collective Worship that reflect the faith and practice of the Church of England as a part of the heritage of our schools. We use the following indicators:

BIBLICAL- the Bible is used to encounter the teachings of Jesus and as a sourcebook for inspiration and learning. Pupils are made familiar with the Lord's Prayer, psalms and other verses of scripture.

LITURGICAL - aspects of Anglican liturgy, such as greetings, are used to create a framework for worship; pupils are also introduced to a variety of well-known prayers – many of which express central beliefs of Christians throughout the ages.

EUCCHARISTIC – we introduce children to the central act of Anglican worship, either in RE or through our own school celebration with the local priest

SEASONAL - we observe the cycle of the Anglican year including celebrations of the major Christian festivals

SYMBOLIC – we use Christian symbols as a focus for reflection

ECUMENICAL – we work with other local Christian denominations

DIVERSE – we provide opportunities to discover the variety of worship in Anglican churches, through valuing both meditation and silence, dance, prayer, reflection, story, quiet songs and louder expressions of praise, etc

We seek to provide a worship space which is attractive and well prepared with thought given to colour, space, seating, ambience, and music.

We foster links with the local parish Church, All Saints Hockerill, involving clergy in leading / joining us for collective worship and providing coherence with worship in church.

We aim to visit the parish church at least four times per year as part of the Christian calendar and to offer the occasional opportunity for all children to experience worship in the wider church e.g. at the cathedral or on a Sunday as part of parish worship.

We aim for our Collective Worship to be creative and to inspire pupils into action.

5. Connections with other Christian denominations and faiths

The Anglican Communion sees itself as part of a global church and promotes ecumenism. In all our schools, 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 some of our pupils and families belong to Anglican churches, some 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 no-one's integrity is compromised, where everyone finds something positive for themselves, and there is no pressure to participate inappropriately or to believe.

6. Rights and Responsibilities

As established by the 1944 Act and reinforced in this policy, parents have the right to withdraw their children from Collective Worship. If a parent is considering withdrawing their child from Collective Worship they should make contact with the Headteacher in writing.

However, it is hoped that no one will feel the need to exercise this right. Should such a situation arise, appropriate arrangements would be made in keeping with the requirements of the Act. This includes the school continuing to be responsible for the supervision of any child withdrawn by their parent from collective worship. We will seek advice from the Diocesan Schools' Team with regard to further legal requirements and the management of withdrawal.

7. Aims and Purpose

In relation to the issues of withdrawal, it is helpful for parents to be aware of 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 reinforce positive attitudes

Within our provision of Christian Worship, we try to meet these aims for all children.

8. Planning

Planning for Collective Worship will be led by the Headteacher but may be delegated to an appropriate member of staff or clergy for specific occasions, acts or celebrations as appropriate.

Plans follow the cycle of the Anglican year, celebrating festivals and saints' days as appropriate. Each half-term explores one of the school's Christian values in a variety of ways, through story, song, prayer and reflection. 'Values for Life' or 'Roots and Fruits' are most commonly used as the basis of these plans, alongside online resources such as 'assemblies.org'.

The Headteacher prepares a termly worship plan, which includes worship themes, bible references, appropriate music to support worship, as well as links to relevant resources.

The Headteacher must ensure that leaders and visiting speakers receive copies of the plans. Individuals and groups are responsible for using the plans as a basis for developing individual acts of worship reflective of the group they are with (class, key stage, school).

Pupils as well as adults engage in the planning, leading and evaluation of Collective Worship. Our preferred approach for individual acts of worship is to follow the pattern of **GATHER, ENGAGE, RESPOND, SEND** – this approach offers a pattern which both staff and children can use and is useful for evaluation as well.

Every act of worship will include some of the following:

Singing	modern and traditional hymns. Christian songs and choruses.
Music	to set atmosphere.
Silence	time to think, reflect and offer private prayers.
Readings	Bible passages, poetry, selections from other sacred texts,

Prayers spoken and silent.
Teaching explanation of how Christian truths may be related to life, and help with integrating worship with daily life.
Pupil contribution/discussion

A suitable focus will be provided for the children's attention to create a worshipful atmosphere. An altar cloth of the appropriate liturgical colour for the point in the church year will be used when appropriate. Organisation

An act of Collective Worship is held daily, usually in the afternoon, which may involve the whole school or smaller class or key stage groups meeting together.

Where collective worship forms part of an assembly or other celebration/performance/production, there will be a clear distinction between the two parts to enable the appropriate reverence and atmosphere to be created.

A weekly pattern has been established in our school:

Monday	Whole school collective worship focusing on a wider theme linked to the school focus Christian Value for the half term, a national/local event/issue, or linked theme. This is led by the Headteacher, Deputy Headteacher, or other appropriate member of staff, or pupils. All pupils and members of staff attend.
Tuesday	Whole school collective worship focusing on a Christian Value, linked to the focus Value for the half term. This is led by the parish priest, Headteacher, Deputy Headteacher, or other appropriate member of staff. All pupils and members of staff attend.
Wednesday	Pupils hold collective worship in their own class, using a stimulus (question, music, object, reading, artwork) to reflect and respond to the focus value. This act includes a short pupil led prayer. Led by the classteacher or pupils.
Thursday	Whole school Singing Praise creates an opportunity to learn songs and listen to other music, including a short period of reflection or prayer. Songs and music are linked to the Christian Value theme or festival. Led by the Headteacher, or other appropriate member of staff. EYFS may have their own Singing Praise in class.
Friday	Whole school joins together for Celebration Praise – an opportunity to reflect on the week, celebrate achievements (shout outs and house points), and share learning (one class each week). Merit Awards are also shared every three weeks. An act of reflective prayer concludes the week. Led by the Headteacher/Deputy Headteacher, or other appropriate member of staff. Parents of the pupils receiving a Merit award are invited to attend.

Aspects of Collective worship are discussed regularly in a staff meeting and by the school's Pupil Worship Leaders group.

Pupils are strongly encouraged to participate through the use of the gathering act of 'Open the Box', opportunities to play instruments, lead, support, and prepare acts of worship.

Special acts of Collective Worship occur through the year, reflecting the church year, specific foci (such as Black History Month), or visitors to the school.

9. Resources

A good range of books, access to websites and child-friendly Bibles are all available. Good quality music e.g. through a growing collection of CDs, and access to a live musician where possible is seen as important and music is played whenever the school community come together for worship.

10. 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.

The organisation and delivery of our Collective Worship is therefore, connected through the communities of school, home and church. Each plays a crucial role in delivering worship in our school through:

- Connected Communities: looking for meaningful community connections in the intersection between church, school and household.
- Encounters with God: encountering faith and belief by engaging in conversations about God as individuals and together.
- Imaginative practices: searching for 'a new way of being church' and creating new thinking and new doing in relation to children, young people and households.

Contributions to SMSC made by acts of worship may be inspected by Ofsted.

11. Monitoring and Evaluation / SIAMS Inspection

We aim to develop the monitoring and evaluation of Collective Worship by continuing to keep records of Collective Worship and surveying adults and children as to their views on its impact and expression of the school's Christian Vision. Criteria for successful worship is available to all those who plan and lead it before asking them to submit short term plans. The co-ordinator and others will observe and monitor acts of worship in line with these criteria. In conjunction with members of the Governing Body, pupils will also evaluate the impact of Collective Worship on themselves and the wider school community.

The impact of Collective Worship is also evaluated as part of SIAMS inspections.

12. Inclusion

We are committed to equality of opportunity regardless of race, gender, cultural background, ability, religion, physical or sensory disability or any other protected characteristic. We therefore aim to make Collective Worship accessible to all and accommodate ourselves to individual needs as appropriate e.g. taking account of different learning styles and using multi-sensory approaches. As when teachers prepare lessons, worship leaders take into account different learning needs and aim to present materials using multi-sensory approaches whenever possible/practical.

13. Review

This policy will be reviewed at least every three years, or sooner if required.

Appendix A: Resources to support the Gathering and Sending

Gathering

Open the box

One child reads the part of 'Leader', another child opens the box and takes out the items to prepare the worship table.

Leader: We open the box to take out:
The Bible to think about

Everyone: God the Father

Leader: The cross to remember

Everyone: Jesus the Son

Leader: The candle to welcome

Everyone: The Holy Spirit

The candle is lit

Leader: Jesus is the Light of the World.

Everyone: We welcome Him today.

The sign of the Cross

Leader: In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Everyone: Amen

Leader: The Lord be with you

Everyone: And also with you.

Sending

The Grace

Leader: Let us finish with the Grace together.

Everyone: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all, now and ever more. Amen.

Blessings

Leader: From all that dwell below the skies, let songs of hope and faith arise. Let peace, goodwill on earth be sung, through every land by every tongue.

Everyone: Amen.

Leader: The Lord bless us and keep us, the Lord make his face to shine upon us and be gracious unto us. The Lord lift up the light of his countenance upon us, and give us peace.

Everyone: Amen.