

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

September 2026

We consider equality implications before and at the time that we develop policy and take decisions, not as an afterthought, and we keep them under review on a continuing basis. All policies are approved by the governing board and reviewed annually.



But the plans of the Lord stand firm for ever, the purposes of his heart through all generations.

Psalms 33:11

New International Version

1. Policy Statement

As a Church of England school, collective worship is an affirmation and celebration of our Christian ethos. It is not simply a statutory duty; it is the heartbeat of our school life — a daily opportunity to gather as a community, to reflect on our vision and values, and to recognise the unique worth of every pupil and adult.

Our worship reflects the rich diversity of Anglican tradition and follows the Christian liturgical year. It contributes significantly to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of the whole school community.

2. Legal Requirements

We comply with the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 (Section 70 and Schedule 20), which requires that:

- All registered pupils (apart from those withdrawn by parents) must take part in an act of collective worship every school day.
- Worship in Church of England schools must be consistent with the school's trust deed and Anglican identity.
- Acts of worship must be appropriate to pupils' age, aptitude and background.
- Worship may take place on the school site or at the parish church.
- Responsibility for collective worship rests with the governing body in consultation with the headteacher.

3. Our Aspirations for Worship

We aspire to provide daily worship that is inclusive, invitational and inspiring, in line with Church of England guidance:

Inclusive

Worship is accessible to all, recognising that pupils and staff come from a range of faith backgrounds and none. Language used avoids assuming faith.

Invitational

Pupils and adults are invited — never compelled — to pray, sing or participate. All may engage with integrity.

Inspiring

Worship encourages reflection, curiosity and action. It offers opportunities to think deeply about behaviour, community and the wider world.

4. Aims of Collective Worship

We aim to:

- Explore the school's Christian vision and the values and virtues it inspires, including compassion, gratitude, justice, humility, forgiveness, reconciliation, resilience, determination and creativity.
- Help pupils and adults appreciate the relevance of faith today by encountering the teachings of Jesus and the Christian belief in the trinitarian nature of God.
- Offer opportunities for spiritual growth through prayer, stillness, worship and reflection.
- Enable pupils and adults to appreciate the variety of Christian worship, including music, silence, story, prayer, reflection, liturgy, festivals and, where appropriate, the Eucharist.
- Develop pupils' skills in planning, leading and evaluating worship.
- Provide experiences that contribute meaningfully to SMSC development, including reflection on life's deeper meanings, forgiveness, community, culture and responsibility.

5. Structure and Anglican Distinctiveness

Our worship draws on Anglican liturgy and follows a simple, recognisable structure:

Gather – Engage – Respond – Send

We observe the cycle of the Anglican year, including major festivals. The Bible, psalms, the Lord's Prayer and well-known Christian prayers are used regularly.

Worship spaces are thoughtfully prepared with attention to colour, ambience, seating and music.

6. Planning and Organisation

- Detailed half-termly plans are published on our website.
- Worship is planned by the headteacher and collective worship lead, in consultation with staff.
- Worship may involve the whole school, key stages, classes or pupil-led groups.
- When worship forms part of an assembly, the distinction between the two is clear.
- Parents and carers are welcome to join us for worship at church on Mondays.
- The local clergy lead worship regularly, ensuring coherence between church and school.
- Pupil worship leaders are supported, encouraged and resourced to contribute meaningfully.

7. Visitors and External Contributors

Those from outside agencies or church groups invited to lead worship:

- are properly briefed about the school's context and vision
- receive copies of relevant plans
- are supported and monitored as part of our evaluation systems
- are expected to follow our inclusive, invitational and inspiring principles

8. Connections with Other Denominations and Faiths

We value our place within the global Anglican Communion and promote ecumenical links. We welcome clergy and leaders from other Christian denominations and recognise that our pupils come from diverse faith backgrounds or none. Worship is planned so that all can participate with integrity.

9. Resources and Training

- Worship leaders, including clergy, have access to high-quality, current resources.
- The collective worship budget is distinct from the RE budget.
- Music, artefacts, books and liturgical materials are regularly updated.
- Worship leaders access professional development through diocesan education teams.

10. Monitoring and Evaluation

The governing body has robust systems to monitor the impact of worship, including meaningful pupil voice.

Monitoring includes:

- observation of worship using agreed criteria
- feedback to worship leaders
- review of planning
- surveys of pupils and adults

Those facilitating worship receive feedback and have opportunities to reflect and improve practice.

11. Inclusion

We are committed to equality of opportunity regardless of race, gender, cultural background, ability or disability. Worship is planned to be accessible to all, with adjustments made where appropriate.

12. Rights of Withdrawal

Parents and carers have the right to withdraw their child from collective worship. They may exercise this right by speaking with the headteacher. We hope that, having chosen a Church of England school, this will be rare.

13. Responsibility and Review

A named member of staff is responsible for collective worship, ensuring that policy and practice are appropriate and publicly available.

This policy is reviewed annually.