
Collective Worship Policy

Reviewed
September
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To be reviewed
2026

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Introduction

Our collective worship policy reinforces and upholds the Christian identity of our school, echoing our vision of "Building on the solid rock" and our Christian values of Courage, Resilience, Honesty, Kindness, and Being the Best We Can Be. It acknowledges the significant role each child plays within their community. Our worship embraces the traditions present in the Church of England and respects the Christian liturgical calendar. The daily act of Christian worship lies at the heart of our ethos, endorsed by all our staff and governors. It significantly contributes to the spiritual, moral, social, and cultural development of our entire school community. All collective worship activities are inclusive, welcoming and invitational, ensuring every individual feels valued and engaged.

Vision: Building a foundation of faith, reflection, and belonging



In the parable of the Wise and Foolish Builders (Matthew 7:24–27), Jesus teaches that lives built on strong foundations are able to stand firm through life's challenges. This principle shapes our approach to collective worship: by providing meaningful, inclusive, and reflective worship experiences, we nurture the spiritual development of all members of our school community. Rooted in Christian faith and open to all, our collective worship offers opportunities for prayer, reflection, and celebration, supporting pupils to grow in faith, understanding, and a sense of belonging.

Aims

Collective worship at St. Nicholas at Wade CEP School will support the school's distinctive vision and Mission Statement, by providing opportunities for members of the school community:

- To provide a reflective and inclusive environment for pupils to explore their own beliefs and values.
- To foster a sense of community and respect for others through shared experiences.
- To support the spiritual, moral, social, and cultural development of all pupils.
- To promote fundamental British values such as liberty, respect, and democracy through Collective Worship.
- To ensure that Collective Worship is engaging, meaningful, and relevant to the whole school community.

- To develop an enquiring mind and express and explore their own views openly and honestly
- To encounter God in Jesus Christ
- To reflect in ways that are of a broadly Anglican Christian tradition, whilst recognising the validity and importance of other Christian denominations, religions, belief systems and other world views.
- To create a worship culture where everyone feels truly welcomed and included.
- To nurture a community spirit, a common ethos and shared values
- To foster an awareness of the world around them and a sense of their place within it
- To take responsibility for their own conduct, charitable giving, and social actions so that they might contribute positively to a multi-diverse society
- To experience silence in a busy world
- To encourage inquisitive engagement with, and reflection on, the teachings of the Holy Bible

The Anglican Christian Tradition

The following are shared as Christian elements of collective worship:

- Exploring the Christian understanding of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit
- Using the Bible for inspiration, stories and guidance
- Observing the cycle of the Church's Year – Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, Pentecost and Saints Days amongst ordinary days
- Learning and saying prayers from a number of sources, in particular the Lord's Prayer (also using sign language) and the blessings in common use and inviting them to engage with these prayers and blessings during collective worship.
- Singing a wide variety of hymns and songs from traditional to modern
- Experiencing Christian symbols in worship and reflecting on their meaning
- The use of prayer, silence and reflection

Implementation

Collective Worship at our school is conducted in accordance with the requirements of the Education Act 1996. It is of a broadly Christian character, while

also taking into account the religious backgrounds of all pupils and staff. It should be “Inclusive, invitational and inspiring”(CEEEO CW guidance document May 2021) This act of worship can take place at any time of the school day and in any regular school grouping e.g. whole school, key stage or class.

Collective worship is planned by a variety of stakeholders including staff, pupils, the incumbent of our local church and external visitors in consultation with the Collective Worship Leader. Our school plans systematically and cohesively using the Canterbury Diocese Collective Worship Planning which is adapted and changed to meet the needs of our community. This ensures there is a shared understanding of the long and short term planning of worship and enables continuity. Visitors to our school are asked to read and comply with our school visitor and safeguarding policies: This includes discussing the content of any worship with a member of the senior leadership in order 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.

We meet as a whole school on Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays in the school hall. Members of the local church (Rev Russell) Take worship on Tuesdays. On other days worship is conducted in class.

We are mindful of the variation in personal spiritual styles and provide a range of creative opportunities (eg: music, silence, symbolism, drama, use of IT).

Our worship consists of:

- Gather and greeting: we welcome the community with music and offer Peace.
- Engage: we share a bible reading, film, story of Christian life/values
- Respond: pupils discuss, share, reflect, pray, sing
- Send: we share the message of the worship again and ask pupils to think about how they will affect their day / learning/ behaviour. We close with a final prayer a sending out and music.

Worship also includes opportunities to celebrate pupils who are living our Christian values in their daily lives around the school. We are able to acknowledge and reward children for being the best they can be both in and out of school.



Expectations of pupils:

Pupils are expected to enter Collective Worship quietly and to show respect throughout the worship.

Pupils are expected to show respect and reverence during Collective Worship, listening attentively and participating appropriately in activities.

Any disruptive behaviour will be addressed promptly and in line with the school's behaviour policy.

Inclusivity

Collective Worship will be accessible to all pupils, regardless of their faith background, and will respect and celebrate the diversity of beliefs within our school community.

Alternative arrangements will be made for pupils whose parents request them to be withdrawn from Collective Worship.

Developing Worship

The school allocates part of its budget to support the daily act of collect worship. The Collective Worship Leader accesses a wide range of resources to ensure that worship is both inspiring and engaging.

Self-assessment and Inspection

Our school regularly evaluates our acts of collective worship and the impact it has on the school and its wider community. This involves monitoring by school leaders, staff, pupils and governors in order to grow and develop. We also welcome the contributions of parents and pupils through our questionnaires, which are reviewed and considered on a regular basis

Worship is independently inspected by law under Section 48 of the Education Act 2005 in consultation with the Diocese of Canterbury.

Parental Withdrawal

Worship is regarded as special time which wholly reflects our ethos as a church school. It is an inclusive opportunity for those of all faiths and none and is in no way intended to evangelise or proselytise.

We respect the right of parents to withdraw their child/children from acts of collective worship on grounds of conscience. However, as collective worship is central to our ethos. We would appreciate the opportunity to discuss this decision with parents. Alternative arrangements would be made according to the unique circumstances of any child who was then withdrawn.

Date of validation..... Signed.....

Chair of Governors

Date of review..... Signed.....

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