



COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

Date agreed by Headteacher: October 2024

Review Date: October 2026

Introduction

As a church school, we strive to guide children towards a spiritual and moral life based on Christian values - particularly the school values of Love, Courage and Respect. Daily worship plays an integral and vital part of the children's day at school, giving the opportunity to join together with staff, parents and other adults in a collective act of reflection and worship.

Main Aims

- To enable spiritual awareness and to encourage curiosity;
- To develop the children's knowledge of Christian beliefs, celebrations, traditions and patterns of worship;
- To develop the feeling of belonging and contributing to a caring community, being mindful of the fact that children come from a variety of backgrounds both Christian and non-Christian;
- To provide an opportunity for reflection and stillness;
- To develop awareness and respect for other beliefs, traditions, cultures and patterns of worship;
- To celebrate children's worth and uniqueness.

As a Church School we must fulfil two legal requirements for Collective Worship:

- Provide a daily Act of Worship for all pupils
- Ensure Collective Worship is provided in accordance with the school's Trust Deed

The legal requirement for Church Schools ensures that every child in the school is entitled to an opportunity for daily worship.

The 1998 Education Act gives parents the legal right to withdraw their children from collective worship. The parental right to request that a child be wholly or partly excused from attending Acts of Worship will be respected. Parents who wish to exercise this right should discuss this with the Headteacher. After discussion, if withdrawal is required by the parent, the Headteacher should be informed of this in writing. Any child withdrawn from an Act of Worship will be supervised by a member of staff in another part of the school.

Worship in our School will:

- Create a time and space where we can draw closer to God and to each other;
- Be distinctively Christian whilst also being *invitational, inclusive and inspirational*;
- Use and promote the clearly identified core Christian values of the school;
- Be related to Biblical text or themes;
- Enable participants to develop an understanding of Jesus Christ and a Christian understanding of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit;
- Be central in importance to the life of our school community, which is part of a wider community that embraces the whole world;
- Reflect on human existence and experience;
- Make use of the seasons and festivals of the Christian year;
- Develop understanding of Anglican traditions and the practice of the local parish church.

For learners it will:

- Develop personal spirituality within the school community through a range of experiences including individual and collective prayer;
- Engage pupils and adults with collective worship, making it relevant and transformational to the lives of members of the whole school community;
- Celebrate the God-given gifts and talents of individuals and the whole school community;
- Make a significant contribution to the overall spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of members of the school community;
- Consider the beliefs and values of others, especially those within the school community;
- Raise aspirations of individuals and the school community.

To comply with the Policies of the Winchester and Portsmouth Dioceses, it will:

- Reflect the trust deed;
- Be clearly outlined in the school prospectus and documentation;
- Involve learners and adults in planning, leading and evaluating collective worship;
- Be monitored and evaluated for the impact it has on the school community by Foundation Governors.

Central Attributes

Collective worship follows the suggested method for delivering worship using the following 'central attributes':

Gathering	Making special and significant this part of the day through appropriate symbol and ceremony;
Engaging	Using the best available techniques to stimulate interest in the content;
Responding	Ensuring there is time and opportunity for individual, group reflection and thought, so those attending can respond in a variety of ways;
Sending	Summarising the worship in a meaningful short message used to create an opportunity for those attending to implement the ideas covered and to conclude the worship.

Collective Worship Plan

The following weekly plan has been developed to ensure children have the opportunity for whole school and class worship.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Whole School Worship in the hall (Led by staff on a rota basis)	Singing Worship in the hall (Led by Music Subject Leader)	Class Worship in classrooms (Led by class teachers)	Whole School Worship in the hall (Led by staff or the clergy of the parish of St. Nicholas)	Whole School Celebration Worship in the hall (Led by the Head teacher)

Opportunities for children

Spirituality Spaces

Every class has its own Spirituality Space – a designated space in the classroom for reflection, prayer and focus. The following may be found in the space:

Prayers, prayer pebbles, class reflection journal, bibles and other books related to worship themes, bible quotes, a wooden cross, items the children have written, made or gathered.

Class Reflection Journals

Each class has its own journal in which the class or individuals may reflect on their experiences and understanding of worship themes during Class worships and at other times.

Values Ambassadors

Each week, in our Celebration worship, a child from each class will be chosen and celebrated as a Values Ambassador – someone who has demonstrated our core Christian values during that week. This child will receive a certificate to take home.

Prayer

Children will be given the opportunity to learn our School prayer, the Lord's prayer and a Musician's prayer. A range of other prayers will be shared during worships and the children will have the opportunity to write and say their own individual and collective prayers.

Prayer Pebbles

Prayer pebbles are to be brought in to all whole school worships by the previous week's Values Ambassadors. As they enter the hall for whole-school worships, the children place the pebbles in the wooden bowl on the worship table. Children placing the pebble in the bowl are encouraged to pause for a moment to reflect on their prayer. The yellow pebble is to say 'thank you', the white for 'please' and the green to say 'sorry'. Any other child is also welcome to bring a prayer pebble to worships or to use these in class Spirituality Spaces at a time of their choosing.

Stories

Bible stories and other stories which help to explain Christian values, existence and experience will be shared with the children. Each class has a copy of the Barnabus Bible for Children displayed in the class Spirituality Space.

Creative Activities

Children will have opportunities to explore worship themes through creative activities e.g art, craft, music, writing. Activities of this nature are included in our planning for Class worships.

Music and Song

Pieces of music reflecting our worship themes will be shared with the children. Each week during Singing worship, children will learn and sing songs that reflect our worship themes. These songs will be sung during other worships and at Christian festivals and occasions throughout the year e.g Harvest, Christmas, Easter.

Visits to St. Nicholas Church

Children will have opportunities to visit our parish church of St. Nicholas. These visits may support learning in class or may be for worship at key Christian festivals or school milestones – Harvest, Christmas, Easter, Year 6 Leavers' Service.

Our Local Clergy

Children will be given opportunities to meet and get to know members of our local clergy and church community. The clergy of St. Nicholas Church leads one of our whole school worships once a week.

Responding, Evaluating, Preparing and Delivering Worships

Children will have the opportunity to respond in worships; answering questions, offering ideas and sharing experiences. Children may be asked to evaluate their worship experiences e.g. as part of pupil conferencing or in class discussion. Children will have opportunities to prepare and deliver worships as part of a class or group.