



Collective Worship Policy

Hope: building for a brighter future

"Now faith is a confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we cannot see" (Hebrews 11:1)

Introduction:

At North Star, collective worship strengthens and supports the Christian ethos and identity of our school. It reaffirms our vision and Christian values, with a focus on our main values of compassion and perseverance as well as our vision of hope based on the passage of Hebrews 11:1. Our worship allows adults and children the opportunity to learn, worship and grow in their understanding of God and of themselves and links to the Christian liturgical year, through specific celebrations and focusses within our worship. The daily act of worship is at the heart of our school and is supported by all staff and governors. It makes an important contribution to the overall spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of our school and celebrates the central role that each person has to play within our school community.

Aims:

Our collective worship, across the year, is planned to:

- Be inspiring, inclusive, invitational* and engaging, so that all participants are able to talk about the difference worship makes to their relationships and the life of the school
- Explore Biblical texts and Christian teaching throughout the Bible
- Challenge everyone, regardless of background to understand and embark on their own spiritual journey
- Develop a sense of the spiritual, creating opportunities to wonder and respond to something beyond the everyday
- Engage in an act of community

- Express praise and thanksgiving to God
- Reflect on the character of God and on the teachings of Christ through Biblical texts
- Affirm and deepen understanding of Christian values and attitudes
- Celebrate special times in the Christian calendar
- Explore the big questions of life and respond to national events
- Foster respect and deepen spiritual awareness
- Be still and reflect
- Share each other's joys and challenges

Legal requirements:

We meet legal requirements by providing a daily act of collective worship which is in line with our Trust Deed and Anglican foundation. The governing Body holds responsibility for ensuring that the legal requirements for worship are met and that all pupils engage each day in a meaningful act of Christian worship. Our daily worship mostly takes the form of whole school worship but can include reflections in class where that is not possible.

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. Should such a situation arise, appropriate arrangements would be made in keeping with the requirements of the Act.

Planning:

Planning for Collective Worship is led by worship leads in each school and reflects our vision and values. It is enhanced with the Roots and Fruits resources which embodies the values we have chosen as a school to focus on. Any visitors, who lead collective worship link their worship to either the BIG story of the Bible, the value we are focussing on during that half term, or in the case of our incumbent, will time their visits to link to specific points in the liturgical calendar.

	Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
Year A	Compassion	Perseverance	Friendship	Respect	Thankfulness	Service
Year B	Compassion	Perseverance	Generosity	Courage	Trust Truthfulness	Forgiveness Justice

The headteacher ensures that leaders and visiting speakers receive copies of the plans. Individuals and groups are responsible for using the plans as a basis for developing their own short-term plans for individual acts of worship. This approach is inclusive of pupils, who have regular involvement in planning, leading and evaluating the impact of Collective Worship.

Within the planning of collective worship, pupils are encouraged to think and ponder about the impact the focus will have on them and given the opportunity to reflect in their classrooms during the week.

Each collective worship follows the guidelines of Gather, Engage, Reflect and Send and is up to the individual leading the collective worship, how they implement each stage based on suggestions from the collective worship lead. Most collective worships are instigated with the phrase from the front of; ‘The Lord be with you,’ and the pupil and staff response of, ‘and also with you.’

Organisation

An act of Collective Worship is held daily which in most cases involves the whole school. On rare incidences where this is not possible, individual classes will have the opportunity reflect in their classrooms.

The headteacher and other members of staff together with groups of children take turns to conduct Collective Worship. This will vary when staff are not available, or visitors come in to take collective worship.

We conduct Collective Worship in a dignified and respectful way, expecting children to behave appropriately and create a suitable atmosphere by using music, pictures or other artefacts to act as a focal point.

We use Friday Celebration Assemblies as an opportunity to share children's work and to celebrate their successes. These culminate in an act of Collective Worship and play an important role in promoting the ethos of the school. In addition to this, at the end of each term, we invite parents to a parent celebration assembly to see their children receive their awards. Governors are also welcome to attend acts of worship at any time.

We encourage and develop our pupils as spiritual leaders in collective worship by:

- Creating class prayers based on our values using the TSP approach.
- Pupils engage in spiritual reflections to discuss back in their classrooms at an age-appropriate level after worship has finished, these are recorded in our whole school Belfry Class Reflection book (a work in progress)
- At the Belfry, a select group of children form the Belfry Values Collective, who
 - reflect on how our school values are embodied in the school and find ways to improve this,
 - embody the values of the school
 - are ambassadors within collective worship
 - support staff within collective worship by taking responsibility for an element of the GERS – in most cases, reading the prayer.
 - lead collective worship based on the value of the half term, when there is not a service
 - take an active role in planning and implementing services within the church, such as selecting readings and song choices.
 - finding ways to develop the Christian character of the school throughout the year
 - evaluate the collective worship provision and reflect on it.

Implementation

As a school we offer a rich and varied diet of daily collective worship on a weekly basis, in addition we also plan services of worship around key festival date sin the Christian calendar, such as Harvest, Christmas and Easter.

Our weekly diet of daily collective worship has developed to meet the spiritual needs of all who attend, it includes the following:

- Whole school collective worship led by a senior teacher to explore core Christian values linked to the expression of our theologically rooted Christian vision.
- Celebration worship where we seek to celebrate achievements of pupils who flourish in the widest sense in our school community and outside of it. The awards are linked to our vision and core Christian values to exemplify how they shape and support our daily lives.
- Singing worship where we learn, sing and praise through invitational songs and music linked to our Christian vision and values.

At other times, our worship will include:

- Visitor led worship, by people from the church, open the book etc to explore themed Christian messages or key Christian events and festivals.
- Pupil led worship to allow our pupils to grow and express their ideas, beliefs and become better spiritual leaders.

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

We monitor and evaluate the impact of our Collective Worship by maintaining records of the activity and surveying adults and children as to their views on its impact and expression of the school's Christian vision. The coordinator and others will routinely observe and monitor acts of Collective Worship in line with these criteria. In conjunction with Foundation Governors, pupils will also evaluate the impact of Collective Worship on themselves and the wider school community.

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.

In some cases, pupils with additional or special needs may find whole school collective worship overwhelming to their sensory experience. In these cases, the following options are available to allow them to access the collective worship. Some pupils will:

- attend worship for part of the session as they find some aspects harder to engage – e.g. the loudness of singing or an external partner is delivering worship
- have a trusted adult supporting them in worship, so they feel confident to access and understand the content. These adults usually sit close by or on the floor with the pupil.
- Have access to resources to help them engage in worship such as ear defenders, fidget resources and for some pupil's physical resources such as wobble seats or cushions.

Further to this, pupils with no/different beliefs, will be respectfully included and invited to participate in the aspects of worship they are comfortable with. This may have been agreed with parents / carers prior to starting school. For pupils who do this, they are asked to be respectful of others around them and to use the time they are not engaging e.g. prayer to sit and contemplate their own thoughts or beliefs.

Implementation of Policy

The Collective Worship Coordinator is responsible for this policy which will be reviewed by the Governing Body every three years (or sooner if national policy changes). Its' implementation is the responsibility of all those planning and leading Collective Worship.

Review

This policy will be reviewed every three years – December 2027.

Links to Other Policies:

- [Schools theologically rooted Christian Vision](#)
- [Spirituality Policy](#)
- Religious Education Policy
- PSHE Policy / RSHE Policy