



CHRIST THE SAVIOUR C.E. PRIMARY SCHOOL



Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of
God's grace in its various forms

1 Peter 4:10

Collective Worship Policy

Policy to be approved by	FGB (via Standards)
Policy last reviewed	June 2025
Policy ratified and adopted by the Full Governing Body	March 2025
Policy due for review	Autumn 2025

Introduction

At Christ the Saviour we aim to be inclusive, invitational and inspiring in our collective worship, preparing children for a life of worship and enabling them to use their gifts to participate both individually and collectively. We aim for our collective worship to enable all members of our school community to participate and worship together.

I. The aims of school worship

By virtue of our foundation, worship at Christ the Saviour should be of the highest quality and the central activity in the life of our school.

i. School worship should aim to:

1. enable children and staff to explore and celebrate the differences and diversity found in the variety of forms of worship in the Christian tradition; including the varied liturgical and other traditions of Anglican/ Methodist worship and the Eucharist.
2. lead the school community to the 'threshold of worship' in order for them to make an informed choice (without compulsion) about their own involvement and to consider their own personal relationship with Jesus Christ;
3. seek to deepen and widen the experience of those of 'faith' and encourage those of 'no faith' so that they begin to feel for themselves something of what it means to worship;
4. use celebration, silence, stilling, reflection, contemplation, meditation, prayer, song, symbols and imagery as vehicles for worship and spiritual growth;
5. provide opportunities for the whole school community to develop their understanding of the trinity by addressing God directly through Jesus in the power of the Holy Spirit and by acknowledging his presence, reflecting upon his character and giving Him praise and honour;
6. provide opportunities for the whole school community to encounter the teachings of Jesus through the explicit teaching of scripture
7. use a vocabulary of worship that encourages the whole school community including our pupils to plan, attend, participate, lead and evaluate worship and appreciate the relevance of faith in today's world. Pupil voice is key to the evaluation and monitoring of our collective worship and its impact
8. encourage all present to explore their own beliefs and understanding of God within a Christian framework by learning more about the Christian faith and by encountering Christ through worship;
9. raise awareness through reflection of the ultimate questions of life relating to matters of faith;
10. reaffirm, strengthen and practise key Christian values. (e.g. love, service, peace, compassion, forgiveness, self giving) and celebrate each unique individual member of the school community as made in the image of God; recognising the individual gifts each has to offer.
11. nurture and encourage respect and care for God's created world by promoting a positive attitude to environmental issues locally, nationally and globally;

12. seek to provide opportunities for spiritual, social and moral development that is characterised by feelings such as awe, wonder, being uplifted, elation, appreciation, gratitude, respect, and reverence;
13. develop a sense of community within the school, the locality, (e.g. local church) and foster the sense of being part of a wider community through the celebration of achievements, festivals, fundraising and special occasions;
14. encourage community partnerships with local churches to support the school effectively in developing our provision for collective worship;
15. foster a concern for the needs of others, recognising the value of the excellent guidance in Valuing all God's Children.

2. The legal basis for school worship

Arrangements for collective worship in our church school is the responsibility of the governors in consultation with the headteacher.

Our Foundation Governors have a particular responsibility to ensure that the worship meets the requirements of the Trustees.

There will always be those who are uncomfortable to enter through the open door of worship and so the Church of England recognises the right of withdrawal from collective worship for those parents or pupils who wish to exercise this option.

Parents should write to the Headteacher if they wish for their child to be withdrawn from collective worship.

There are three main legal requirements for collective worship:

- a. Collective worship in a Church of England School should be in accordance with the tenets and practices of the Church of England.
- b. The law on collective worship in a community school, that it *should be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character* **does not apply** in a church school, where it should be **clearly Christian**.
- c. As the foundation of the school is in the Anglo-Catholic Tradition of the Church of England, we expect this tradition to influence our approach and forms of collective worship at Christ the Saviour.

The school must provide an act of collective worship for **all** children every day

- a. Collective worship takes place at any time of the school day and in any regular school grouping e.g. whole school, key stage or class unit.
- b. Whilst we wish to make worship as inclusive to all who attend our school and desire that none feel the need to withdraw from it
 - i. parents may withdraw their children from collective worship on religious grounds.
 - ii. The 'religious grounds' do not have to be justified or explained by parents.
 - iii. This does not mean that schools can guarantee an exemption from the Christian ethos of the school as this ethos determines its distinctive approaches.
- c. Should children be withdrawn, the class teacher must provide a meaningful alternative. Staff are not allowed to withdraw children from collective worship for other activities (e.g. remedial reading, music lessons, booster classes, etc).

3. Staff Withdrawal

- a. Whilst teachers in local authority schools may withdraw from Collective Worship, teachers in voluntary aided schools have a condition of employment which requires their participation in the daily act of collective worship (they may also be required to lead worship in the forms as directed by the school)
- b. Collective worship **cannot** be used as part of a teacher's planning, preparation and assessment (PPA) time.

4. Definitions of Worship

- a. **Worship** can be defined as paying homage to (revering) that which is of worth ('Worth-ship.'). Religious Worship is the acknowledgement of 'worth' which is attributable to a supreme being, we call God.
- b. In Church of England schools, opportunities should be provided for children to offer worship to God, through Jesus Christ.
- c. We can never *make* anyone worship because it is an attitude of the heart focused on God; in a school situation we should seek to lead people to the threshold of worship by providing a setting where they may worship God if they so wish.

5. School Assembly

- a. is a gathering of the school community; it is often used to celebrate and focus on the life and values of the community itself, it might be without religious content although we would expect Christian Values to permeate its content.
- b. may include materials from faiths other than Christianity, when these materials are relevant, and especially when children from those faiths are present,

6. Corporate Worship

- a. is a gathering of a body ('corpus') of believers and presupposes a particular religious commitment.
- b. When the school, or groups within our school, meet together for worship the activity is unlikely to be corporate worship, where the worshippers are broadly in agreement in their beliefs.
- c. Even in a school where the background of the children is Christian, the children may not regard themselves as believers.

7. Collective worship

- a. is a gathering of a 'collection' of people of diverse religious, agnostic and non-religious backgrounds and does not presuppose any particular religious commitment.
- b. In our context it refers to a service of worship which is educational, inclusive and invitational in its nature, rather than being a gathering of believers. Opportunities should be provided for children to offer worship to God, through Jesus Christ, without losing sight of either the different starting points of each of the children, or the need for the act of collective worship to take account of the developmental ages of the children.

Collective worship and assembly are not one and the same thing. They are, in essence, different from each other, but in practice they often overlap.

8. Multicultural and Multi-faith issues

- a. We live in a multicultural area and particular care must be taken to ensure that the integrity of all children and their families is respected and that children are prepared to enter a multicultural and multi-faith society.
- b. School Assemblies may include materials from faiths other than Christianity, when these materials are relevant, and especially when children from those faiths are present, but at all times worship must be offered to God through Jesus Christ.
- c. Parents have the legal right to withdraw their children from school on the occasion of religious festivals.
- d. As Church of England schools we seek the approach whereby we:
 - i. Nurture those of Christian faith
 - ii. Support those of other faiths
 - iii. Challenge those with none

9. Holy Communion (also known as the Eucharist, Mass or the Lord's Supper)

- a. it is appropriate that children in Church schools have some understanding of Holy Communion and experience worship which includes this sacrament.
- b. Holy Communion was given to us by Jesus at the Last Supper when he shared the Passover meal with his disciples.
- c. Through this celebration, Christians seek to follow Jesus' command "Do this in remembrance of me." They remember all that he has done for us: the broken bread and wine represent his crucified body and blood and proclaim that by his death, Jesus won forgiveness and eternal life for all who believe in him.
- d. There are very careful rules governing the celebration of Holy Communion and a form giving permission to receive at mass is provided on the School's website.
- e. The school has a weekly mass in the Grove site and a weekly mass at our junior site held in our parish church. Parents are invited to both weekly masses. Pupils actively participate in both our infant and junior masses through serving, choral singing, reading, prayer and as stewards.

10. Celebrating the Eucharist

- a. In the Church of England, those who lead worship are bound to use only those forms of service that are authorized or allowed by the Church of England's canon law. The school will ordinarily use the worship services of the foundation church.
- b. The Church of England has two different but complementary sets of services:
 - i. the 1662 Book of Common Prayer
 - ii. Common Worship.
- c. A very clear form and shape is commended by the Church for simple acts of worship:

Preparation (a greeting, confession, lighting a candle, praise and a collect or prayer for the day)

Liturgy of the Word (hearing and exploring the words of the Bible)

Prayers (thanksgiving and prayers for those in need and the Lord's Prayer)

Conclusion (dismissal)

- d. Universalis texts (as used at the weekly mass) can be found at:

www.universalis.com

11. Monitoring

- a. The monitoring of our collective worship will be carried out jointly by the headteacher and the parish priest. Useful strategies for collecting the evidence will include:
 - written observations; checking that practice matches planning
 - observing children's attentiveness and level of interest
 - conducting occasional formal observations of collective worship and providing feedback
 - seeking feedback from children, staff, parents, governors, incumbent and visitors
 - observing the extent of the collective worship's influence on children's attitudes and behaviour throughout the school
 - holding regular discussions with colleagues
 - meetings with our pupil worship team
 - pupil evaluations in our year group worship response books

Feedback will be brought to staff meetings and staff briefings which will review collective worship regularly.

Formal evaluation of collective worship will take place at **least annually** as detailed in the school monitoring timetable, improvement plan and collective worship action plan.