

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

Reviewed: Autumn Term 2025

Policy Review Date: Autumn Term 2028



HAMPSTEAD PAROCHIAL
Church of England Primary School

Educating for life in all its fullness.

To enable everyone within our community to flourish and enjoy a life filled with love, meaning and purpose, underpinned by Christian values, a love of learning and an eagerness to make the world a better place together.

How our Vision Inspires this Policy: Our vision is that children have a broad understanding of Christian beliefs and concepts allowing them to understand the nature of God.

Introduction to Collective Worship

In Church of England schools, collective worship is seen as more than a daily 'awe and wonder' moment. It is the unique heartbeat of the school and will be offered as part of a wider opportunity for pupils and adults to encounter faith by engaging in conversations about God, both as individuals and together. We want pupils to leave school with a rich experience and understanding of Christianity, and we are committed to offering them an encounter with Jesus Christ and with Christian faith and practice in a way that enhances their lives.

Collective worship in schools, including prayer, reading and reflecting on the Bible, liturgy, sacrament and other imaginative riches of Christianity, provide a vital opportunity for this.

Collective worship is a sacred and significant time of each school day, where we gather together as a whole school family. Collective worship strengthens and supports the Christian identity of our school and reaffirms our Christian vision and associated values of **Koinonia, Respect, Compassion, Forgiveness, Friendship and Responsibility**.

Aims of Collective Worship:

- Offer the opportunity, without compulsion, to all pupils and adults to grow spiritually through experiences of prayer, stillness, worship and reflection.
- Help pupils and adults to appreciate the relevance of faith in today's world by encountering the teachings of Jesus and the Bible and developing understanding of the Christian belief in the trinitarian nature of God.
- To reflect the parish tradition of worship, while giving experience over time for pupils to experience the breadth of Anglicanism.
- Enable all pupils and adults to appreciate that Christians worship in different ways, for example using music, silence, story, prayer, reflection, as well as through the varied liturgical and other traditions of Anglican worship and festivals.
- Explore the school's Christian vision and how that underpins shared values and virtues. This in turn informs the behaviour policy and supports the language around behaviour.
- Enable pupils the opportunity to make a positive contribution to worship through involvement with aspects of the planning, leading and evaluation of collective worship.

Planning of worship

Collective worship is planned by a variety of stakeholders including staff, the incumbent of our linked church and external visitors in consultation with the collective worship leader and governors.

The daily Christian act of worship is central to our Christian ethos. It makes an important contribution to the spiritual flourishing of the whole school community. We are committed to providing a daily act of Christian worship which is truly welcoming, inclusive and exemplifies the principles of Christian hospitality.

Collective worship can take place at any time of the school day and in any regular school grouping e.g., whole school or key stage. Our school plans systematically, using both long term and short-term plans which enables continuity and cohesion. The cyclical nature of the Worship pattern allows for stability and security, in particular for our children with SEND.

We are mindful of the variation in personal spiritual styles and our planning incorporates a range of creative opportunities to enable all to engage in the acts of worship. These include ***music, silence, prayer, drama and the use of IT.***

When planning acts of worship, we follow the Church of England guidance to ensure that worship is:

- Inclusive** – Our acts of worship recognise that pupils and staff come from homes of different faith backgrounds as well as no faith backgrounds, so it will be inclusive of, and fully accessible to all. Care will be taken to ensure that language used by those facilitating worship avoids assuming faith of those participating, listening or watching.

- Invitational** – In our acts of worship, there is no compulsion to ‘do anything’. Rather, worship will provide the opportunity to engage whilst allowing the freedom of those of different faiths and those who profess no religious faith to be present and to engage with integrity. Pupils and adults will only be invited to pray if they wish to do so.

- Inspiring** – By asking and discussing big questions about who we are and what we do in worship we hope to motivate pupils and adults into action. There will be opportunities to think, reflect and ponder on their and the wider community’s behaviour and actions.

Worship in our School

Children experience different acts of worship throughout the week which reflect the Liturgical calendar. Collective worship is in the form of whole school and class worship.

Through attending Collective Worship, pupils and staff hear a shared message. At the very start of the week whole school collective worship delivers a big question which is then continued by staff throughout the week, including Class worship. Class worship enables children to record their thoughts and ideas on a more personal level and allows children to delve deeper into the big question for the week. Every Wednesday, the children have worship delivered by a member of the Church. This allows for the link between Church and School to feel fluid. A member of the Clergy and school work together to ensure worship is cohesive. St-John-at-Hampstead is also a space where we celebrate key Christian events such as the Christmas Carol service, Easter service and the Year 6 leavers service. On a Thursday, we have a celebration worship to celebrate successes throughout the week with special mentions. To end the week, during Friday worship the big question is recapped and the children participate in singing worship. The singing aspect of worship is inclusive and a song is sung every half term which links to the Christian value.

Patterns of Worship

Our pattern of worship is as follows:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Introduction to theme and week's bible passage	Class worship	Church	Celebration Collective Worship	Singing worship

Our worship consists of 4 parts:

- **Gather** – We welcome the community, for example, *(with music, liturgy and or the lighting of a candle)*
- **Engage** –we share, for example, *(a Bible reading, followed by an activity to engage pupils with the Christian message)*
- **Respond**- pupils, for example, *(discuss, share, reflect, pray or sing)*
- **Send** – we share, for example, *(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, music, liturgy and/ or the extinguishing of the candle)*

Collective Worship Leader

The leader for collective worship is responsible for long term planning of worship, leading acts of worship and supporting staff and pupils who are planning and involved in the act of worship. The leader also monitors the quality of the worship and evaluates its impact across the school community.

Visitors Leading Worship

Visitors to our school are asked to read and comply with our school visitor and safeguarding policies. This should include 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 remain with school staff.

It is the responsibility of the senior leaders and collective worship leader to ensure that all visitors, who are leading worship in school, will be trained and properly briefed about the school, its context and the school vision.

CPD and Training

Parents, pupils and adults in school are entitled to be led in Christian worship by those who have a secure understanding of the nature of collective worship in a church school context. Therefore, all those leading worship, including clergy, should have access to regular diocesan led training.

Monitoring and evaluation

Our school regularly evaluates our acts of collective worship and the impact they have on pupils and adults within the school community.

This involves monitoring by school leaders, the collective worship leader and governors and takes place both formally and informally. Everyone who leads worship is asked to evaluate, reflecting on how they can improve and develop their practice.

Parents and Carers

As a school we recognise that a partnership with parents/ carers is essential to help pupils flourish. Worship is regarded as a special time in our school day where we gather as a school family. Reflecting our ethos as a Church of England school, collective worship is an inclusive opportunity for those of all faiths and none to be present with integrity.

We respect the legal right of parents to withdraw their child/ children from acts of collective worship, however, in view of the Christian ethos and Christian distinctiveness of our school, we hope that all pupils will participate in collective worship, and that anyone wishing to withdraw their child will discuss with the Headteacher before making their decision. Following these discussions, any desire to formally withdraw pupils from worship must be done via a letter to the Headteacher.

Legal requirements:

Collective worship:

- Should be conducted in accordance with the Trust Deed of the school and Instrument of Government and be consistent with the beliefs and practices of the Church of England.
- Unless the right of withdrawal has been exercised all pupils must take part each day in an act of collective worship (DfE circular 1/94 para. 51) and the Governing Body should ensure that all pupils each day engage in a distinctively Christian act of worship.
- Arrangements for collective worship in foundation schools of a religious character (i.e. church schools) are the responsibility of the Governing Body, after consultation with the headteacher (DfE Circular 1/94 para 52&53).