

# Collective Worship Policy



## Policy

**Reviewed: September 2024**  
**To be reviewed: September 2027**

**St John's C.E. (C) Primary School**  
**Collective Worship Policy**  
**September 2025**

**Rationale**

Collective worship at St John's CE (C) Primary School, is the heartbeat of our school day, it encompasses the whole school mission statement, Christian Values and aims. It is a time when the whole school participates to actively promote, develop and demonstrate, confirm and affirm the ethos of the school. At St John's C.E. (C) Primary School, we recognise that Collective Worship is an important time to provide opportunities for our students Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development.

Our school Christian Vision and Values are:



**Aims**

The aims and objectives of collective worship are:

- to provide an opportunity for children to worship God;
- to enable children to consider spiritual and moral issues;
- to enable children to explore their own beliefs;
- to encourage participation and response;
- to develop in children a sense of community spirit;
- to promote a common ethos, with shared values, and to reinforce positive attitudes;
- to teach children how to worship.
- to celebrate individual achievements and special events.
- to take something away to reflect/act upon or make sense of during their day;

## **Collective worship Practice and Procedures**

We understand worship to be a special act or occasion whose purpose is to show reverence to God. Collective worship involves all members of the school coming together and participating in worship together. We expect everyone to take an active part in the worship.

In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act, which states that collective worship should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character', we normally base our Acts of Worship on the teachings of Christ and the traditions of the Christian Church. However, they are conducted in a manner that is sensitive to the faiths and beliefs of all members of the school and the local and global communities.

While most Acts of Worship in our school are Christian, we also hold Acts of Worship that reflect the traditions of other religions that are represented in the school and the wider community.

### **Organisation of collective worship**

We hold a daily Act of Collective Worship each morning, which gives time for reflection and inspires for the day ahead.

We conduct Acts of Worship in a dignified and respectful way. Children know that collective worship is a special time of calm reflection. We expect children to behave in an appropriate way and ask them to be quiet and thoughtful, to listen carefully to the teachings, and to participate in prayer and hymns. We create a spiritual atmosphere by using music, and candles or other objects, to focus the attention of the children.

The children have a valuable contribution in our Acts of Worship and they are encouraged to lead and have responsibility and make contributions. E.g. leading prayers, contributing their thoughts and reflections and being responsible for the music.

The Acts of Worship are normally conducted by the Head Teacher or other members of staff, but are sometimes led by local clergy or other representatives of local religious groups.

Acts of Worship are planned by the Head Teacher, clergy and Church Group. The themes are chosen to reflect the teachings and traditions of the Christian faith, as well as encompassing other faiths and topical events. Each half term we focus on a different one of our Christian Values. These themes are developed throughout the half term and enable children to have a deeper understanding. They are able to see the relevance in their own lives and the world around them. We also recognise the need for flexibility for unplanned or spontaneous Acts of Worship, drawn from an experience, a moment, a glimpse of something 'special', which can be shared. We aim to include aspects of the curriculum especially PSHE, Citizenship, SMSC, British Values and environmental awareness etc.

We try to make these times happy and comfortable for the children, to recognise fun and humour and sometimes sadness. We encourage contributions from children and adults. We celebrate special occasions such as birthdays, a wedding or the birth of a baby. We try to make the occasion a truly family one.

Each week we have a special Act of Worship to celebrate the work of the school and recognise achievements. Parents and friends are invited to this and Governors' attendance at our Act of Worship is always welcome. This promotes the community spirit of the school and confirms the way in which home and

school work together in partnership. All aspects of the children's development and achievements are recognised as well as out of school achievements.

Collective worship normally takes place in the school hall and sometimes in the church.

Zoom may also be used to deliver Act of Worship if deemed appropriate and/or fit for purpose.

There is a big book in school that shows the themes covered in the half term's Act of Worships, some relevant photos of the journey and evaluations.

Each week there is a 'Golden Spiritual Question,' which the children have to find around school and explore the theme with friends or individually. This is launched on a Monday and briefly revisited in AOW the following week. Each class has a half-termly spiritual question in their spiritual window.

There is planned time for Key Stage AOW (every 2 weeks from Autumn 2) to enable older children to explore themes more deeply.

### **Right of withdrawal**

We expect all children to attend Act of Worship. However, any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from religious worship, and the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during that part of the Act of Worship. Parents and carers do not have to explain or give reasons for their request. This right of withdrawal complies with the 1944 Education Act, and was restated in the 1988 Education Reform Act.

The Head Teacher keeps a record of all children who have been withdrawn from collective worship.

### **Inclusion and Equality**

In line with our Equality Policy and Accessibility Plan we are committed to providing an environment that is transparent and accessible by all. Each child, staff member and parent/carer is valued, respected and challenged regardless of race, gender, religion, social background, culture or disability.

### **Policy Monitoring and Review**

This policy will be reviewed following the 3-year Policy Review Cycle of the school or when there are significant changes to the curriculum that warrant it. It may also be reviewed earlier should it no longer comply with school practice or the legal requirements of schools.

**Policy produced by A. Blackburn.....Date September 2024**  
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**Approved by (Chair of Governors):.....Date: .....**

**Review Date: September 2027**

*If you need further copies of this document, or would like the document in another format, such as enlarged print, audio tape or another language, please contact the School Office.*

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