

Christ Church Hanham CE Primary School

Collective Worship Policy

Author/Person Responsible	<i>Headteacher</i>
Date of Ratification	<i>29 September 2025</i>
Review Group	<i>Curriculum, Standards and Safeguarding Committee</i>
Ratification Group	<i>FGB</i>
Review Frequency	<i>Every two years</i>
Review Date	<i>By 31st December 2027</i>
Previous Review Amendments/Notes	Reviewed as per review cycle Changes made to worship timetable <i>01.01.2026 Slight change on p.5 to reflect change of day for Reflection through Song.</i>
Related Policies	
Chair of Governor's Signature	<i>O. Coltman</i>

Are there concerns that the policy could have a different impact on any of the following groups? (please tick the relevant boxes)	Existing or potential adverse impact
Age (young people, the elderly; issues surrounding protection and welfare, recruitment, training, pay, promotion)	None
Disability (physical and mental disability, learning difficulties; issues surrounding access to buildings, curriculum and communication)	None
Gender reassignment (transsexual)	None
Marriage and civil partnership	None
Pregnancy and maternity	None
Racial groups (consider: language, culture, ethnicity including gypsy/traveller groups and asylum seekers)	None
Religion or belief (practices of worship, religious or cultural observance, including non-belief)	X
Sex (male, female)	None
Sexual orientation (gay, lesbian, bisexual; actual or perceived)	None

Rationale

In Church of England schools, collective worship is central to fostering a sense of community and to expressing the school's Christian vision. Worship is seen as more than a daily 'awe and wonder' moment. It is the unique heartbeat of the school and is 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 (Collective Worship in Church of England Schools, The Church of England Education Office, 2021)

Christ Church Hanham CE Primary School is a Church of England Voluntary Controlled School. Collective worship is an important part of the school day as it gives us the opportunity to come together as a school community. It is attended by all students, staff and any visitors in school are very welcome to join in.

In line with the school's vision of Nurture with love- Grow through knowledge and wisdom- Flourish in hope, Collective Worship is central to school life allowing all members of our community to encounter, question and reflect upon the school's Christian values. Collective Worship provides a key opportunity for pupils and staff to reflect on what makes them a unique human being and to develop their own spiritual

understanding and sense of self, their community, the world and beyond. Through a rich and varied experience of Collective Worship, we aim to build hope and aspiration in our pupils.

Collective Worship and the Law

“The arrangements for the required collective worship may, in respect of each school day, provide for a single act of worship for all pupils or for separate acts of worship for pupils in different age groups or in different school groups.” The School Standards and Framework Act 1998

Collective worship in community schools is grounded in the historical past and enshrined in educational law to be ‘*wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character*’. In accordance with legal requirements (School Standards and Framework Act 1998) an act of collective worship, taking into account of the age, aptitude and background of the pupils, is provided daily for all pupils except those withdrawn by parents.

In Church schools the requirement instead to reflect the Anglican status of the school as expressed in its trust deed liberates those leading collective worship to build on the rich, lived diversity of Anglican tradition and identity. In the same way as worship in churches is aspirational, constantly evolving and being re-imagined there is an expectation of a continuous, dynamic reimagining of what collective worship means in the Church school.

Aims

At Christ Church Hanham CE Primary School we aim to achieve the following in our school worship/ assemblies:

- Strengthen and support the school community and celebrate each unique individual member as made in the image of God
- Explore the school's vision and how that underpins shared values and virtues inviting all to live out the values of the school
- 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
- Allow reflection and response to fundamental questions of life and those things that are of eternal concern and value to human beings
- Offer the opportunity, without compulsion, to all pupils and adults to grow spiritually through experiences of prayer, stillness, worship and reflection
- 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, festivals and, where appropriate, the Eucharist
- Celebrate and give thanks for achievements within the school, local and international community and occasions of significance, including festivals
- Contribute to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils

- Foster and enable a concern for the needs of others – recognition of the vulnerability of self and others
- Lead pupils to a deeper knowledge and understanding of different faiths and world views
- Provide members of the school community with the opportunity to;
 - Praise and reach out to God
 - Experience stillness and quiet
 - Experience a variety of forms of music, art, drama, story that lead to personal reflection
 - Provide a foundation for a mature understanding and practice of worship in the future
- Enable pupils to develop skills through engaging in the planning, leading and evaluation of collective worship in ways that lead to improving practice.

Inclusive, Invitational, and Inspiring

Inclusion is important to our vision and we aim for acts of assembly to be inclusive of all pupils. There is an expectation that all pupils will be present. Careful planning and preparation ensure that there are clear learning intentions for all pupils at different levels of understanding.

Acts of Collective Worship are first and foremost for the educational benefit of all pupils. It is a shared activity that allows for a variety of responses and provides an opportunity for those of any religious faith or none to focus and reflect on stimuli which allow the human spirit to respond with integrity. The school is committed to respect the integrity of the backgrounds from which pupils come. The school will also offer the opportunity to explore, reflect upon and respond to the mystery and meaning of the Christian faith.

Whilst Collective Worship in a Church of England School will reflect the Anglican tradition, as a diverse and inclusive school community, Collective Worship at Christ Church Hanham CE Primary will always be inclusive to all pupils and members of staff regardless of faith or belief. This will be achieved through ensuring that all acts of worship are invitational; no member of the school community will be compelled to 'do anything.' The school's approach to Collective Worship is underpinned by the Church of England's Guidance Document on Collective Worship in Church of England Schools: [Inclusive, Invitational and Inspiring](#) (The Church of England Education Office, 2021)

Provision

The rhythm of daily worship allows pupils and adults to pause and take time to reflect, creating a space for an encounter with faith in God. It also provides the opportunity to reflect on larger questions of meaning and purpose. Collective Worship will provide a shared set of symbols, signs, words and actions which give the community a language upon which it can draw, in times of joy and grief. Such an experience is key to fostering a sense of fellowship and cohesion within the school community. This time set aside in the school day provides staff and pupils with the opportunity to gather and support one another as a community.

Throughout the year, our worship and assembly structure will reflect the seasons and celebrations of the Christian Church (Harvest, Advent, Christmas, Lent and Easter) as well as providing time to reflect and learn about other important events and significant days (eg faith celebrations, national memorial days and topical news events). Pupils and adults will encounter the practice of regular prayer and worship as a normal part of the life of the school. These activities will help provide a rhythm and stillness as a pattern of community life.

Collective Worship at CCH will follow a recognisable structure and include Anglican liturgy and symbols.

At CCH, we arrange Acts of Collective Worship/assemblies in the following ways:

Day	Worship	Grouping	Leadership	Focus/ Theme
Monday	Collective Worship	Whole school	Headteacher/ Rev. Steve	Value of the term linked to Bible stories/ Christian calendar
Tuesday	Reflection through Story	Whole school	Deputy Headteacher/ Leaders	Value of the term explored through high quality picture book
Wednesday	Class Worship*	Class	Teacher	Revisit key themes from whole school worship/ Respond to 'Big Question for Reflection'
	Reflection about our World*	Whole school	Deputy Headteacher/ Leaders	Topical news story or cultural celebration viewed through the lens of school values and/or British values
Thursday	Reflection through Song	Whole school	Music teacher	Songs linked to value of the term and Christian calendar
Friday	Celebration Assembly	Whole school	Headteacher/ Deputy Headteacher	Celebration of the week, reflection, gratitude and giving thanks

*alternates each week

Leadership, Planning and Evaluation of Collective Worship/Assemblies

Collective Worship is planned by the Headteacher. The Vicar and Foundation Governors support the long-term planning of worship. The calendar for Collective Worship is based on the school's six core values and draws upon the Church year.

Each year, the school elects Collective Worship Captains (pupil leaders for worship). These pupils are supported to plan and deliver specific aspects of the school's worship programme.

Collective Worship planning is based around the model of 'windows, mirrors and doors' allowing pupils the opportunity to learn, reflect and respond to the focus of the worship. Staff are given appropriate training and mentoring to equip them in their roles as worship leaders.

All pupils attend an act of Collective Worship each day. These are organised on a rota and include whole school, phase-based and class-based worship. An overview

of termly Collective Worship is maintained by the Headteacher. Foundation governors are involved on the monitoring and evaluation of worship via the Ethos Group as well as visits to school. The group reports to the Headteacher and the Governing Body.

Special services

We join together as a community at special times throughout the year , e.g. Harvest, Christmas, Easter, Leavers' service, special times of celebration and charity such as Children in Need and Red Nose Day as well as marking national days of significance such as Remembrance Day.

Music and art as part of our act of worship

Music is played before and after our assemblies to highlight that this is a special time for us to be together. The choice of music will either reflect the requirements of the music curriculum as well as being appropriate to the theme and value of the worship. We see music as a medium able to evoke deep, intense feelings that are a part of an individual and theirs alone; memories, emotions of visual images. The music, instrumental or vocal, may be selected to enhance the atmosphere for worship, stillness and reflection or to inspire thought and talking points in the areas of spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. This listening time is also used to introduce children to:

1. Music of a variety of styles, cultures and traditions
2. A range of composers and famous works
3. Recognition and appraisal of a range of musical elements

Developing staff expertise and knowledge

Parents, pupils and adults are entitled to be led in worship by those who have a secure understanding of the nature of collective worship in a Church school context and by those who are professional in their approach to working with pupils and adults from all faiths and none. Therefore, it should be a priority to build up the expertise of staff, pupils, clergy and other adults in facilitating collective worship in Church schools. To do this the school will ensure the following.

- Worship leaders, including clergy, have access to regular training, primarily through local diocesan education teams.
- Pupil worship leaders (Collective Worship Captains) will be supported, encouraged and resourced to contribute meaningful acts of worship.
- Worship leaders, including clergy, should have access to high quality and current resources.
- The governing body should have robust systems in place to monitor the impact of worship effectively; this monitoring will include and meaningfully involve pupil voice. Those facilitating worship should have the opportunity to receive feedback and hear the outcome of evaluation.
- Those from outside agencies and church groups invited into the school to facilitate worship should be trained and properly briefed about the school, its pupil

context and the school's vision. They should be supported and monitored as part of the school's systems for the evaluation of the impact of worship.

- There should be a named member of staff responsible for collective worship with responsibility for ensuring that appropriate policy and practice are in place and publicly available.

Visitors to school

Visitors leading collective worship must be given clear instructions concerning age and ability of the pupils, purpose of occasion and appropriate delivery (content and material used). The school will ensure that checks are made about connections with the school e.g. parent, charity representative, clergy from another denomination, adviser, colleague before the day. The school's Safeguarding Policy will be applied when deciding on the suitability of external visitors in delivering worship or assemblies.

There will be a sharing of the aims and objectives of the visits and links made to the overall scheme for Collective worship.

The visitor's method will be reviewed before another invitation is extended. A follow up session will be linked where considered appropriate to the developing theme.

Right to withdraw from Collective Worship

In accordance with legal requirements (School Standards and Framework Act 1998) an act of collective worship, taking into account of the age, aptitude and background of the pupils, is provided daily for all pupils except those withdrawn by parents. The school expects that, if a parent/ carers wishes to withdraw their child from collective worship, that they make an appointment to meet with the Headteacher. Any agreement to withdrawal will be only made following discussions with the Headteacher. This will be followed by written confirmation of withdrawal. Special arrangements will be made by governors to supervise children withdrawn from acts of worship. In addition, staff have the right to withdraw from the act of collective worship. Again, any staff member wishing to exercise this right must arrange to discuss this with the Headteacher.

Acknowledgements

This policy has been written using material from South Gloucestershire SACRE's model assembly policy (2018) and the Church of England Education Office's guidance document 'Collective Worship in Church of England Schools: Inclusive, Invitational, Inspiring' (2021).