



Collective Worship Policy

This review: November 2026	Next review: November 2027	Statutory/non: Statutory	Lead: K Wall Assistant Headteacher
Associated documents:			
NCEA – SMSC Policy			
Links to:			
Schools & Academies - Diocese of Southwell & Nottingham (anglican.org)			

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1. Introduction

This policy has been drafted by the Assistant Headteacher for Christian Distinctiveness.

This policy is consistent with the school's Christian foundation and Diocesan Guidelines on Collective Worship and conforms with all current legislative and regulatory requirements regarding Collective Worship.

2. How this policy reflects our Christian vision

In the Bible, Jesus talks about wanting us to have a rich and fulfilling life. This is really important to us. We want our students to grow in every way – spiritually, morally, socially, and culturally. We want children to aim high, explore new things, and show resilience when things get tough. The Bible teaches us that everyone is special and valuable to God. We believe this is key to living a full life. We're all part of one big family, no matter our background or where we come from. Our endeavour is to create a place where everyone's talents are recognised, differences are celebrated, and God's love is shown in everything we do. We show wisdom in how we support each other in our school community. We show humility by serving others. We encourage everyone to live by our ARCH values of aspiration, respect, compassion and humility. These values are the fruits of our vision.

'Life in all its fullness' John 10:10

2.1 Collective worship

Daily collective worship offers the opportunity, without compulsion, to all students and adults to grow spiritually. As a Church of England school, we believe in providing opportunities for all students to explore and develop their own beliefs and values whilst reflecting on the relevance of Christian principles to their lives. Collective worship takes place in a variety of forms, including within a tutor group or year group. It may take place in any part of the school site. Collective worship is led by the Academy Chaplain, who is supported by a wider team of staff, student leaders and chaplaincy volunteers. Collective worship will be distinctly Christian in nature whilst also being inclusive of other religions, beliefs and values. As a Church school we offer a range of additional opportunities for students to reflect on and explore their beliefs. These include:

- Prayer Week
- Big Questions Week
- Voluntary Chaplaincy groups
- Voluntary services (including communion)

2.2 Collective Worship and the Law

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' (Education Reform Act 1988). 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. (Collective Worship in Church of England Schools). Parents/guardians have the statutory right under Section 71 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 to withdraw their children from acts of collective worship at all maintained schools, including faith schools. If the parent/guardian of any student requests the student's withdrawal from attendance at collective worship in the school the student should be excused until the request is withdrawn.

3. Aims

Following guidance from The Church of England (Collective Worship in Church of England Schools), our aim is that collective worship will:

- Explore the school's vision and how that underpins shared values and virtues. In doing so, it will reflect on moral values such as compassion, gratitude, justice, humility, forgiveness and reconciliation; and develop virtues such as resilience, determination and creativity that develop character and contribute to academic progress.
- Help students 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.
- Offer the opportunity, without compulsion, to all students and adults to grow spiritually through experiences of prayer, stillness, worship and reflection.
- Enable all students 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.
- Enable students to develop skills through engaging in the planning, leading and evaluation of collective worship in ways that lead to improving practice.

4. Provision

Daily collective worship is firmly underpinned by our vision of 'life in all its fullness'. Our aim is that it is inclusive, invitational and inspirational. Collective worship should provide opportunities for spiritual development, time for personal reflection and allow students and staff to explore their place in the world. It is distinctively Christian and welcoming to those of all faiths and none. Each week has its own theme which are planned in advance by our Academy Chaplain.

Programme of daily collective worship years 7 to 11

Day	Collective Worship	Explanation
1	Thought for the day	Delivered within tutor groups, planned by our Academy Chaplain and based on the theme for the week.
2	Year group collective worship	Based in the Sports Hall or Canon Williams Hall. Explores the theme in detail. Provides time for reflection.
3	Daily Musing 1	Delivered within tutor groups – daily musings are recorded / planned by a variety of people, including students, to enable students to hear / engage in activities from a diverse range of speakers. This is followed by our tutor programme which focuses on personal development, providing opportunities for spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.
4	Daily Musing 2	Delivered within tutor groups – daily musings are recorded / planned by a variety of people, including students, to enable students to hear / engage in activities from a diverse range of speakers. This is followed by our tutor programme which focuses on personal development, providing opportunities for spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.
5	Tutor group notices	Introduction to the theme for the week prepared by our Academy Chaplain. It includes a Bible verse, prayer and big questions to ponder.

Additional opportunities for collective worship:

Encounter – led by the chaplaincy team in tutor rooms.

Voluntary communion services

Year 7 Welcome Service – held at St. Mary Magdalene’s Church

Big Questions Week

Prayer Week

Prayer and reflection spaces

Christingle Service - held at St. Mary Magdalene’s Church

Y11 Celebration Service - held at St. Mary Magdalene’s Church

Y13 Leavers Service

Remembrance – annual opportunity for reflection

Staff prayers – weekly voluntary opportunity for staff to pray together

Staff worship – occasional staff-only worship led by the chaplaincy team

Staff prayer board

5. Responsibility

- The Headteacher is responsible to the Governing Body to ensure that the legal requirements for collective worship are met.
- The School Chaplain, and in their absence the Assistant Headteacher for Christian Distinctiveness, is responsible for overseeing the delivery of collective worship on a daily basis in partnership with staff responsible for SMSC and Christian ethos.
- In conjunction with the Headteacher the Academy Chaplain is responsible for ensuring that staff are aware of their responsibilities under this policy, and are trained and equipped to fulfil them.

6. Record Keeping

The Academy Chaplain, and in their absence the Assistant Headteacher for Christian Distinctiveness, will maintain records of all major acts of collective worship that take place within the school.

7. Monitoring and Evaluation

The monitoring and evaluation of collective worship will be subject to the established quality assurance practices operating within the school.

Quality assurance will be carried out to ensure that school worship:

- Provides meaningful opportunities for reflection, exploration and/or deepening of faith.
- Is relevant to the lives of students as well as to current issues faced within society.
- Includes student participation.
- Is consistently delivered to a high standard whilst encouraging providers to adapt their approaches and use a variety of mediums and styles.
- Has a Biblical basis and allows students to explore key themes within a Christian context.
- Sits alongside the school’s beliefs in equality, diversity and respect in how to treat others and in the way we serve our friends, the school and wider society.
- Explores our Christian vision and associated ARCH values.

Quality assurance will be led by the Academy Chaplain and Assistant Headteacher Christian Distinctiveness. This will predominantly involve student voice and learning walks.

8. Review

The collective worship policy will be reviewed annually