



Collective Worship Policy

Church & Community committee	Spring 2024
Next review date	Spring 2025

Our Vision Statement

Children are at the heart of everything we do and Christ is the light that guides us. [John 8:12](#)

- Christian values and compassion are cherished and are the heartbeat of our actions.
- Every aspect of school life is centred around how to make a positive impact on every child.
- Children are nurtured to help them feel safe and happy.
- Everyone in our school is valued and respected
- We intend for every child to be able to grow, reach their full potential and develop a lifelong love of learning
- Everyone's efforts and achievements are celebrated
- We help each other to make healthy lifestyle choices.
- Everyone is encouraged to make a positive contribution to their future in a diverse world.

Our Christian Values

COURAGE LOVE FRIENDSHIP HOPE FORGIVENESS RESPECT



1. Aims and purpose

The aims and purpose of collective worship are:

- to provide an opportunity for children to worship God;
- to enable children to consider spiritual and moral issues;
- to consider their own personal relationship with Jesus Christ.
- to enable children to explore their own beliefs and those of others;
- to promote a common ethos, with shared values and to reinforce positive attitudes
- enable children and staff to explore and celebrate the differences and diversity found in the variety of forms of worship in the Anglican Christian tradition.
- 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.
- use celebration, silence, stilling, reflection, contemplation, meditation, prayer, song, symbols and imagery as vehicles for worship and spiritual growth.
- provide opportunities for the whole school community to address God directly through Jesus in the power of the Holy Spirit through acknowledging his presence, reflecting upon his character and giving Him praise and honour.
- use a vocabulary of worship that encourages the whole school community to attend, participate and lead worship.
- 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.
- raise awareness through reflection of the ultimate questions of life relating to matters of faith and recent news articles.
- reaffirm, strengthen and practise key Christian values and celebrate each unique individual member of the school community as made in the image of God.
- nurture and encourage respect and care for God's created world by promoting a positive attitude to environmental issues locally, nationally and globally.
- 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.
- 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 and special occasions.
- foster a concern for the needs of others.

2. Collective worship

We understand worship to be a special act or occasion whose purpose is to show reverence to God. Collective worship involves members of the school coming together and participating in an assembly. 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 frequently base our worships on the teachings of Christ and



the traditions of the Christian Church. However, we conduct our worships in a manner that is sensitive to the faiths and beliefs of all members of the school.

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

3. Organisation of collective worship

- We hold a daily act of collective, worship, which can either be whole-school/church or class worship. Photographic evidence of worship and outcomes are available on our school website and are shared regularly via our school twitter account.
- We conduct worship in a thoughtful and respectful way. Children understand that it is a period of calm reflection. We regard it as a special time, and expect children to behave in an appropriate way. We ask them to be involved, to listen carefully to the teachings, and to participate fully in prayer and hymns. We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music, candles, images or other objects, to focus the attention of the children.
- Worship is led by a variety of people, the Headteacher, Deputy, SLT or another teacher or teaching assistant. They may also be led by our Ethos Group, other pupils, special visitors, the Incumbent from St John's Church or other representatives of local religious groups. We warmly welcome a variety of visitors into worships such as Bishop Julie and the England Amputee Football Coach/players.
- Worship themes and weekly focal points are planned a term in advance with the majority taking the themes from the traditions of the Christian faith and our six core Christian Values (Love, Respect, Courage, Friendship, Hope and Forgiveness). We observe the festivals and mark the events of the Christian calendar. Some acts of worship are related to topics that we teach as part of the school curriculum such as those included in our No Outsiders ethos and the PSHE curriculum. The children in our Ethos team meet to plan and deliver a worship of their choice. Throughout the year we adopt a range of themes linked to other faiths and relate these to our own Christian Ethos. We regularly use Picture News during worships to discuss topical issues and promote oracy skills.
- Each Friday Sunflower Celebration Worship reflects the achievements and learning of the children. We encourage the children to present their work to the other children, and to raise issues that they have discussed in class. These special assemblies provide an opportunity to reward children for their achievements both in and out of school. They also play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school, which is that all children are valued, and all achievements are recognised. Lostock Gralam Church of England Primary School is a successful school, and we shall continue to celebrate the successes of all our children during Friday Worship. Each week, the children with a Sunflower award spend special time with the Headteacher and each other, sharing a biscuit.
- Open the Book lead Worship each Wednesday. This group is made up from members of our own church and other local Churches. Children become familiar with Bible Stories through drama, with a link to their relevance in today's world during the Reflection time and prayer. Our children enjoy taking an active part in these dramas and role plays alongside members of our community.
- Each year we invite parents to join us for special Church celebrations. We welcome their attendance, as this promotes community cohesion, and shows the school and the homes working together in support of the children's achievements. Families are also invited into classes each term to enjoy looking at their child's work as well as joining their child's class worship with Vicar Andrew in church each half term.



- Governors are always welcome to attend worship.

In summary within our daily act of collective worship, we aim to provide opportunities for children to:

- provide an opportunity for children to worship God;
- celebrate all that is good and beautiful and express thankfulness for the joy of being alive;
- provide opportunities for children to share what is meaningful and significant to them, including the darker side of life;
- ensure that the experiences provided are relevant to the age, aptitude and family background of the children;
- give time for silent reflection and exploration of inner space;
- illustrate forms of worship that others have found helpful in their spiritual development, e.g. silent contemplation, dance, singing;
- provide a rich variety of forms of expression, e.g. art, drama, music, story and give children the opportunity to experience these at their own level rather than teachers imposing their own interpretations;
- take place in an environment that is conducive to worship, which is professionally coordinated and properly resourced;
- always invite, never coerce, remembering that children will be at different stages of spiritual development and that they should feel able to respond and participate at their own level.

4. Right of withdrawal

We expect all children to attend 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 assembly. Parents 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 Headteacher keeps a record of all children who have been withdrawn from collective worship.

5. Other forms of Worship

Worship is encouraged at times throughout the day. Outside of our collective worship assemblies, pupils are given time to reflect peacefully with God and may offer prayers for others to share. Class prayers are offered before lunch, at the end of the school day and at any time when there is a special request. We share our worship focus each week along with pupil voice on our school newsletter.

6. Monitoring and review



Monitoring the policy and practice of collective worship is the role of The Incumbent of St John's Church or their representative, who is also responsible for religious education. The Governor concerned liaises with the Headteacher before reporting to the Governors.

Worship will be evaluated regularly by a variety of stakeholders. A record will be kept by the Headteacher. Each half term a class is responsible for our 'Worship Reflections' book where the children are encouraged

to reflect on the new learning that took place in each worship and how this has made them feel. We use the windows, mirrors and doors images to aid our reflections. Staff are also invited to record their reflections here.

This policy will be reviewed at least every three years.