

St James and St John Church of England Primary School



Collective Worship Policy

**Kindness, Respect, Collaboration, Resilience, Aspiration, Courage,
Friendship**

This policy was adopted and approved by the Governing Board: October 2025

The policy is to be reviewed by: October 2028





“Unite and Prosper”

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord. “Plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” Jeremiah 29:11

Vision: We unite together to enable all to prosper in every aspect of their life.

Our school values underpin our vision: respect, kindness, aspiration, collaboration, friendship, resilience, courage.

Our friendly, nurturing school achieves the vision through creative, stimulating and challenging learning opportunities.



Collective Worship is central to the life of St James and St John Church of England Primary School, Collective Worship offers the pupils and our school community an opportunity to reflect on our Christian values and wider issues in the context of our Christian vision. It is an expression of our vision and shapes our approach to others and to what we do in school.

At St James and St John Church of England Primary School our Collective Worship provides the whole school community the opportunity to:

- celebrate Christian seasons and festivals such as Harvest, advent, Christmas and Easter
- celebrate and understand our vision and school values of: respect, kindness, aspiration, collaboration, friendship, resilience and courage
- unite and celebrate as pupils and the school community prosper
- understand and experience prayer, stillness, worship and reflection
- consider spiritual, cultural and moral issues
- create a reflective approach to life
- participate and respond, whether through active involvement in the act of worship or through listening to and joining in the worship offered
- develop community spirit, promote a common ethos and shared values, and reinforce positive attitudes
- listen and respond to Bible stories
- feel safe and affirmed in their own belief
- learn about festivals and beliefs from other faiths and world views
- Worship God on their own terms.

Collective Worship will reflect aspects of the curriculum and aims to:

- nurture spiritual growth
- enable participants to consider moral questions in a Christian context
- enhance social understanding and encourage responses to issues through courageous advocacy
- give participants a chance to reflect on the place and importance of faith in the lives of people today
- encourage participants to explore beliefs drawn from their own cultural heritage
- reflect the teachings of Jesus
- promote the British Values of respect for the rule of law, individual liberty, democracy, and mutual respect for and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs.

The Pattern of Collective Worship

Daily Collective Worship mainly takes place in the school hall, but may take place in classrooms or other locations.

We follow the seasons of the Church year and within these significant festivals such as Harvest, Christmas, Easter etc. Other important days in the calendar such as Remembrance, Mother's Day, Fathers' Day (Marvellous Men), and Leavers also feature in our Collective Worship.

Over the course of a week our Collective Worship aims to include worship led by our local Church Community, singing of hymns and other songs, a focus on one of our Christian values, celebrate the school's achievements and an aspect of Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development.

Whenever worship takes place it is planned to promote participants' thinking beyond the time given to worship itself.

Leading Worship

Worship may be led by a member of school staff, the local Church Community or pupils.

Pupils are encouraged to use the time when walking to Worship to be calm and become ready to be in the presence of God. Collective Worship is introduced by the lighting of the candle. Our prayers are addressed to Jesus and God reflecting the traditions and practices of the Church of England. We sometimes invite pupils to suggest spontaneous prayers for our school community during Collective Worship. Putting out the candle signals the end of worship.

The Worship council play an active role in Worship by being responsible for preparing the hall for worship and playing the music to signal the beginning and end of worship. Worship council may also choose a hymn, read Bible verses and read the prayer.

Where possible we have leaders from other faiths and other visitors contribute to Collective Worship. This helps us to improve understanding and promote respect for other faiths.

Planning Acts of Collective Worship

Our acts of worship are carefully planned by the Collective Worship lead to ensure a balance between content and experience. Leaders, including the children, plan the content and activities included in worship according to what is most appropriate to the season/theme and the needs of the pupils. The themes of worship are chosen to both express and explore our vision and the way in which this vision is experienced in school through the associated values. Throughout their time at our school children will encounter a wide variety of activities such as dance and drama alongside more traditional elements of worship such as prayer and song.

Prayer is a vital part of our worship. It is introduced with invitational language. Our prayers are addressed to God reflecting the traditions and practices of the Church of England. Pupils and staff who prefer not to pray are encouraged to use these times to reflect on the important messages shared in our worship.

Our worship is reviewed through discussions with participants, observation and reflection.

A Legal Note

By law, Collective Worship must:

- be provided for every child every day
- reflect the school's Trust Deed.

All acts of worship are in accordance with the school's Trust Deed and reflect the traditions and principles of worship within the Church of England.

Our policy sets out clearly our aspiration that Collective Worship will be a valuable and valued experience for all members of our school community whatever their backgrounds and beliefs. It is invitational, inclusive and reflective in nature.

The Governors are responsible for upholding the Christian foundation of the school and ensuring the daily provision of Collective Worship. This is supported by and in consultation with the Headteacher. The responsibility to uphold the Christian ethos and foundation of the school should be made clear to staff on their appointment.

We appreciate opportunities to speak with parents or staff who have concerns about Collective Worship and are always keen to develop our understanding of the sensitivities of other faiths, beliefs and cultures overcoming any difficulties where possible.

Parents have the right to withdraw their child from Collective Worship as stated in the 1988 Education Act. We request that those who wish to exercise this right inform the Headteacher in writing so that school records are accurate and alternative arrangements for learning can be made.

All teachers, including the Headteacher, have the right of withdrawal from Collective Worship, but the Headteacher, should he or she wish exercise this right, maintains statutory accountability for Acts of Collective Worship at St James and St John Church of England School.