



Collective Worship Policy

Date Adopted by Governing Body	November 2025
Review Period	Annually
Review Date	September 2026

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Introduction

Collective Worship at Horbury St. Peter's & Clifton Church of England VC Primary School is central to the life of school and is the main platform for exploring the school's vision. It is well planned and of high quality so that the whole school community is engaged on a journey of discovery, which includes exploring the teachings of Jesus, the Church and the Bible.

The school motto, **love each other deeply with all your heart**, is at the centre of everything we do. We see our Patron Saint, St Peter as an example of courageous advocacy, faith, commitment and strength. His life and witness, inspires us, so we can be prepared to handle new situations and accept the challenges of life. The Christian faith teaches that Jesus has **"come in order that you might have life - life in all its fullness" John 10.10**, so as a Church School and part of our local Christian family, we are always welcoming to those of all faiths and no faith.

Our time in collective worship is the most important part of the school day. Through collective worship, we seek to meet the needs of all, wherever they may be on their journey of faith and belief.

Collective Worship at Horbury St. Peter's & Clifton Church of England VC Primary School is all about giving glory to our Father in heaven:

- We explore scripture and learn so that we are better equipped to take action and let the love of Jesus shine through us.
- We praise God and give thanks.
- We listen to and talk to God through prayer, stillness and reflection.

We believe Collective Worship 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. We want pupils to leave school with a rich experience and understanding of Christianity, and we are committed to offering them an encounter with Jesus Christ and with Christian faith and practice in a way that enhances their lives.

Church of England Guidance

The Collective Worship Policy at Horbury St. Peter's & Clifton Church of England VC Primary School draws on guidance from the Church of England. This guidance has been produced to challenge, to guide and set expectations for Church school communities and diocesan authorities, encouraging them to reflect on their practice and to ensure that collective worship remains the relevant and essential component of an education that enables all pupils to flourish and to **'live life in all its fullness' John 10:10**.

Church of England schools are committed to offering high quality collective worship. They are places that recognise and value collective worship as central to fostering a sense of

community and to expressing the school's Christian vision. In practice, this means that structure, planning, evaluation, participation, collaboration, and inspection of collective worship are all taken seriously by the school and by diocesan authorities.

Collective Worship in Church schools should be, inclusive, invitational, and inspiring, enabling children to see the relevance of faith today and to encounter Christian beliefs and traditions. Our times of Collective worship are also an important opportunity to nurture pupils' Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development (SMSC) and a time to explore Christian values which underpins these areas of development. Collective Worship is integral to our identity and sense of belonging to the worldwide community and global citizenship.

Legal Requirements

The 1988 Education Reform Act requires that all students “[shall on each day take part in an act of Collective Worship](#)”. We seek to deliver high quality acts of Collective Worship to fulfil this requirement. This can take place at any time in the school day and in any groupings.

All our acts of worship are in accordance with the school's trust deed and reflect the Anglican status of the school.

“The legal requirement for Church Schools ensures that every pupil in the school is entitled to an opportunity for daily worship.” (Deeply Christian, Serving the Common Good, Church of England, Vision for Education 2016)

In addition to daily school collective worship, special celebrations may take place in church or churches within the locality. As a reflection of our Anglican identity and trust deed we also hold School Masses on a regular basis at significant times of the Christian year. We see these celebrations as an opportunity for mutual flourishing. These services take place in the School Hall or in our Parish Church of St Peter and attendance is voluntary at these services and celebrated by the Vicar. These Masses are for staff, pupils, parents/guardians, governors and members of the local congregation. The times and details for these services can be found on our website, social media platforms, and newsletters.

In a Church of England school or academy the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Framework asks how “[collective worship enabling pupils and adults to flourish spiritually 2023](#)”

To enable pupils to flourish Collective Worship may be held at any time during the school day. It should provide pupils with variety in their experience of worship, acts of worship may take the form of a whole school or separate acts of worship for students in different age groups or school groups.

The responsibility for arranging worship in our school rests with the Governors who, after consultation with the headteacher, have appointed a Worship Leader with special responsibility for the co-ordinating of Collective Worship in the school with our Vicar Fr. Christopher Johnson and the Headteacher.

All acts of Collective Worship are in accordance with the guidance issued in circular 1/94 which states that worship should be of a 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character' and the Trust Deed which requires us to provide worship in accordance with the principles and practices of the Church of England. By broadly Christian in this school, we ensure that children will have the opportunity to explore: -

- the nature of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit;
- the nature of human beings as children of God, part of His creation and, though sinful, invited to eternal life;
- Jesus as the Son of God who, through his life, death and resurrection, broke the power of evil and restored humanity's relationship with God;
- the central values of forgiveness, selfless love, redemption, goodness, compassion and charity;
- the central place of the Bible and teachings of the Church as sources of knowledge about God and Jesus and as a source of inspiration and guidance;
- the importance of prayer;
- the central symbols of Christianity;
- the core Christian values and concepts;
- significant and prominent Christians and persons of faith;
- the cycle of the Church year.

Acts of Collective Worship at Horbury St. Peter's & Clifton Church of England VC Primary School take into account the children's ages, aptitudes and family backgrounds and will also reflect and celebrate the Christian faith foundation of the school. Collective Worship should also reflect the breadth and diversity of the Anglican tradition, the principles and practices of the established Church. provide opportunity to explore diversity within the Christian tradition, and local faith communities, shared values and worldviews.

The school recognises that there is a difference between acts of Collective Worship and the assembly of pupils. On some occasions, assembly may precede or follow an act of Collective Worship. When this happens the transition from assembly to worship will be marked in some suitable way e.g. the lighting of a candle or reflecting on an image on the screen, moment of silences and reflection etc.

The governing body hold overall responsibility for ensuring that the legal requirements for worship are met.

Collective worship in a Church of England School must be in accordance with the tenets and practices of the Church of England.

Worship at Horbury St. Peter's & Clifton Church of England VC Primary School is distinctly Christian and reflects Anglican traditions. The school also draw on the rich tapestry of practices in the world-wide Christian Church.

The Governors have the responsibility for ensuring that the school meets the requirements for worship within the Anglican tradition. They are also tasked with monitoring and

evaluating the impact of worship on the school community in consultation with the headteacher.

Recognising its historic foundation, the school will preserve and develop its religious character in accordance with the principles of the Church of England. A varied range of approaches to worship will be used whilst remaining true to our Trust Deed.

The Right of Withdrawal

Part of the distinctively Christian nature of Church of England Schools is that they are hospitable and inclusive to all in the community they serve. Collective Worship occupies a central place in the life of our Church school; this is made clear on induction, and it is hoped that parents will be choosing the school, knowing that the distinctive ethos will determine a Christian tradition within collective worship.

The 1944 and 1988 Education Acts state that parents have the right to withdraw children from collective worship and suitable arrangements should be made to accommodate these children.

On occasions, a parent may make a request for their child to be withdrawn from collective worship. There is an expectation that parents wishing to request a withdrawal will meet with the headteacher to discuss their concerns and requirements.

It may be helpful to establish:

- The elements of worship in which the parent would object to the child taking part.
- The other aspects of school life that are impacted by the Christian foundation of the school such as prayer and reflective areas.
- The practical implications of withdrawal.
- Whether the parent will require any advanced notice of such worship, and if so, how much.

Where parents have withdrawn their children from collective worship and request religious worship according to their particular faith or denomination, the governors and headteacher will seek to respond positively to such requests providing:

- Such arrangements can be made at no additional cost to the school.
- That the alternative provision would be consistent with the overall purposes of the school curriculum as set out in the Education Acts.

If a parent asks that a pupil should be wholly or partly excused from attending any religious worship at the school, then the school will respect these wishes.

This right of withdrawal doesn't extend to assemblies

Aims of Collective Worship at Horbury St. Peter's & Clifton Church of England VC Primary School

Collective worship aims to:

- Have a pivotal place in the life of the school.
- Support pupils and adults in their spiritual growth.
- Be the central vehicle by which the school's vision is unpacked and explored so that the whole school community is challenged and engaged with the teachings of Jesus, the Church and the Bible.
- Provide an experience of worship that will offer opportunities for those present to observe and/or respond to the presence, power and peace of God as understood by Christians. This will always be invitational, offering an opportunity to take part whilst allowing the freedom for those of other faiths and none to be present with integrity.
- Support pupils in the development of their understanding of the Trinitarian nature of God in Christian belief.
- Provide a variety of different opportunities for reflection, understanding of diverse liturgical traditions, participation, challenge and enjoyment where all present, can be actively involved and develop their own spirituality whilst contributing to the communal journey.
- Help children to become familiar with Christian language and symbolism and the cycle of the Church year so that they are offered a pattern of meanings and a framework into which they can begin to integrate experience.
- Explore a variety of ways of praying, giving children the opportunity to form their own prayers using multi-sensory foci and introduce them to some well know Christian prayers, as well as a variety of prayers of thanksgiving before mealtimes and home time.
- Offer opportunities to all children and staff to develop their skills in planning, leading and evaluating the impact of school worship with the support and shared engagement of the local church community. Pupils will be at the centre of this process.
- Ensure that materials and themes for worship are carefully selected to make sure pupils understand the work of Christians and the Church locally, nationally and globally and how this reflects the teachings of the Bible and the example of Jesus.
- reflect the Christian traditions of the United Kingdom and its multicultural expression as a world faith

Guiding Principles: Inclusive, Invitational, and Inspiring

Collective Worship at St. Peter's Church of England Primary School is in line with Church of England's guidance which requires worship to be **inclusive, invitational and inspiring**.

Inclusive: Worship is wide-ranging and varied in style. We welcome children and adults of all faiths and no faith to worship. We discuss other faiths and worldviews as part of worship to

explore and identify shared beliefs and values – e.g. Diwali when we reflect on the importance of 'light' as a symbol to Hindus, as well as Christians.

Invitational: We use language carefully in collective worship to ensure it is both invitational and welcoming with no sense of compulsion. Invitational worship is open and accessible to all on their spiritual development journey.

Inspiring: We want children and adults to walk away from worship with fresh energy and a renewed motivation to do good. We want them to reflect the faith and commitment of St Peter rooted in God's call to **love each other deeply with all your heart** in celebration, to feel the deep joy of communicating with God and in sad and challenging times of remembrance to feel that they are not alone, but secure in the presence of God.

Development of the policy and links to other documentation

This policy was developed using national guidance and diocesan advice in collaboration with the Headteacher, our Vicar and the Collective Worship Lead.

The school ensures that the guiding principles for collective worship are reflected and applied in our policies and practices, including those that are concerned with:

- Pupils' personal development and wellbeing
- Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) education and Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education
- Staff recruitment, retention and professional development
- Care, guidance and support
- Behaviour, discipline and exclusions
- Working in partnership with parents, carers and guardians
- Working with the wider community
- Collaborative work with other schools

We also ensure that information about collective worship is included on the school website.

Organisation, Planning and Delivery

Collective worship is approached with the same commitment to professional excellence as all other aspects of provision when it comes to matters of organising, planning, delivery, resourcing, monitoring and evaluation.

The pattern of weekly worship will generally be as follows:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Whole school Theme Worship	Values Led Worship	Class Worship – World Events	Worship with our local Church	Celebration Worship

The act of collective worship will typically take place in the morning, at the beginning of the school day. A celebration worship takes place on Friday. Collective worship is led by members of staff, pupils, church leaders, and, occasionally, by visitors.

Collective Worship lasts approximately 20 minutes each day.

The content and methodology of Collective Worship should be varied and there should be evidence of this in planning, delivery and resourcing.

It is planned around annual and termly themes – this is the responsibility of the Headteacher and the Collective Worship Lead. The planning of worship takes place in collaboration with the Vicar of St Peter's Parish Horbury, Fr. Christopher Johnson SSC.

Each week there is a theme for Collective Worship. Themes reflect the Christian heritage of the country, associated and shared values of the school community. These are published at the beginning of the term and a reminder is included on the website, social media, and school newsletter.

It is expected that those leading collective worship that week will relate their collective worship to this theme.

The themes chosen are broad enough to allow all those leading collective worship to approach the theme from their own perspective. This will mean that by the end of the week the pupils will have had the opportunity to reflect on the theme from a variety of perspectives. There will also be weeks when pupils will be able to take a lead on the theme for the week

This pattern is flexible and on occasions it is recognised that collective worship leaders (staff, visitors and class pupil representatives) may feel that they need to respond to local, national and international events.

The following annual services are planned and delivered by pupils, the Class pupil worship representatives (with support from their class teacher/ Children's Worker/Curate) and Fr Christopher and take place in school and in St. Peter's Parish Church:

- Whole-school blessing – Fr Christopher
- Harvest service in Church Whole School (by KS)
- Remembrance service Whole School - Headteacher
- Advent Journey – Early Years in School
- Christmas service in Church Whole School (by KS)
- Candlemass – Whole School – Church or School Led
- Ash Wednesday Mass with Ashing Whole School in School
- Easter service in Church Whole School (by KS)
- Ascension Day Whole School – Church or School Led
- Pentecost Whole School in School
- St Peter's Day Mass – in Church Whole School (by KS)
- Leavers' Service and Presentation for Year 6

Parents and friends are invited to attend these where possible.

Collective Worship should follow a four-fold structure. The core aspects of worship are Gathering, Engaging, Responding and Sending out.

Each person leading collective worship is asked to plan using a simple proforma or template (add in location as to where this can be found). All stakeholders are expected to contribute to the evaluation process of collective worship via an online survey.

The school seeks to involve pupils in the evaluation of collective worship. class pupil worship representatives regularly seek the views of their classmates and report these to the school's *Collective Crew* pupils worship leaders.

Collective Crew pupil worship leaders meet regularly with the Worship Leader, Parish Children's Worker, or Vicar and Headteacher to review collective worship. These meetings are an opportunity to review and evaluate acts of Collective Worship and to plan themes for the next term. The evaluations (both formal and informal, including the views from the pupils via class pupil representatives) of collective worship are collated and presented and inform future planning, support, resources for collective worship. Fr Christopher Johnson is governor/trustee) one of the school governors (Mrs Helen Sage) has a role monitoring Collective Worship at the school. Following these meetings, they submit a report termly to the Governing Body.

Responsibilities

The policy has been drawn up for approval by the Governors. The Collective Worship Policy is the responsibility of the Headteacher and the Worship Leader in consultation with the Governors. All members of staff are responsible for the delivery of collective worship in school.

The ongoing development of collective worship is informed by the School Development Plan. This is monitored and delivered by the senior leadership team.

The Worship Lead will:

- Co-ordinate the planning of collective worship (in collaboration with the Headteacher and the Vicar);
- keep a record of collective worship themes and hymns / music;
- attend relevant training and development;
- advise on class or group worship and prayer;
- organise and provide appropriate resources to support the delivery of collective worship.
- arrange for visitors to take part in the delivery of collective worship;
- evaluate the quality of collective worship.

Staff development and training

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 is a priority at St. Peter's Church of England Primary School to build up the expertise of staff, pupils, clergy and other adults in facilitating collective worship.

To do this, the school ensures that:

- Worship leaders, including clergy, access regular training.
- Class pupil worship representatives are supported, encouraged and resourced to contribute meaningful acts of worship.
- Collective Worship leaders, including clergy, have access to high quality and current resources.
- Those facilitating collective worship should have the opportunity to receive feedback and the hear the outcome of any evaluation.
- Those from outside agencies and church groups invited into the school to facilitate collective worship are trained and properly briefed about the school, its pupil context and the school's vision. They are supported and monitored as part of the school's systems for the evaluation of the impact of worship.

Resources

The school provides staff and pupil with access to the collective worship resources, to support, encourage and inspire those leading acts of Collective Worship and times of reflection and prayer. Resources for worship are kept by the collective worship coordinator in SharePoint. The school has a budget of which is reviewed annually to develop these resources. Extra Support for Collective Worship is available from SACRE Wakefield, the National Society and Diocese of Leeds.

Policy evaluation and review

This policy will be reviewed on an annual basis by the Headteacher, Vicar who is one of our Governors, a foundation Governor responsible for monitoring Collective Worship and the Worship Leader. Any changes to this policy will be communicated to relevant stakeholders.