

St. Thomas' CE Leesfield

Collective Worship

Policy



September 2025

Approved at committee

Date: 1st October 2025

Adopted & ratified by Full Governing Body

Date: 1st October 2025

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

Our Vision

Inspired by St Paul's teaching 'You are all one in Christ' (Galations 3:28)

We aspire for everyone in our school family to be accepted and be accepting, welcoming all. To be a community that treats others equally, with respect and kindness. To be aspirational, having hope and celebrating the value and purpose of our unique abilities. To love learning and to embrace new experiences and challenges with courage and creativity, as we become the best version of ourselves. We want to promote peace. To love and serve our diverse local and global community, making a difference for others.

AIMS

This policy encompasses the aims of the School Development Plan and Our School Vision.

1. (Standards) To ensure that each child achieves their highest standard and makes good progress in all areas of school life.
2. (Teaching and Learning) To provide pupils with high quality teaching in order to meet each child's learning needs by means of a broad, balanced curriculum.
3. (Environment) To provide a secure, well resourced, high-quality learning environment.
4. (Management) To support the work of the school by effective management of finance, curriculum, administration and personnel.
5. (Ethos) To create a happy, inclusive school culture in which to promote our children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development and in which all children feel valued.
6. (Partnership) To promote a mutually supportive learning partnership with governors/parents and to extend children's skills and interests to the wider community. Parents of children with AEN will be kept informed of their child's progress as outlined in the policy.

DEFINITION

WHAT IS WORSHIP?

Worship engenders a sense of belonging with a focus on God, friendship and personal awareness. It may take on different forms and involve prayer, songs and hymns, music, sacred and secular readings, silence and stillness, reflection, drama, visual arts, the use of artefacts and materials from the natural world.

At St Thomas' Leesfield School, we understand worship to be a special act or occasion within the school day. We ensure our Collective Worship is always **inclusive** by making it accessible to all our children and families including those who have different beliefs or additional needs. We welcome families to join us in celebrations and consider appropriateness of our worship in line with our community's current situations. Our Collective Worship is **invitational**. We ensure that the delivery of the Collective Worship is authentic and open enabling pupils to access the worship in a way that they are comfortable. We plan for our Collective Worship to be **inspiring** and motivational. By using a variety of strategies, we engage all our pupils in Collective Worship and provide them with opportunities to reflect. Whether we meet as a whole school family, a house group or a class group, God is placed firmly at the heart of our school life, as we help the children to understand that God is with us throughout the day in whatever we do and say, and in the successes and failures of our school community. This is summed up in our school vision and mission statement - "To be the best we can in the sight of God."

Religious education in a Church school should enable every child to flourish and to live life in all its fullness. (John 10:10).

The Church of England Education Office – Statement of Entitlement (Feb 2019)

“Religious education in a Church school should enable every child to flourish. It will help educate for dignity and respect encouraging all to live well together. Schools should be committed through their underpinning faith, to teach a deep respect for the integrity of other religious traditions (and worldviews) and for the religious freedom of each person.”

“Central to religious education in Church schools is the study of Christianity as a living and diverse faith, focused on the teaching of Jesus and the Church. There is a clear expectation that as inclusive communities, church schools provide sequenced learning about a range of religions and worldviews³ fostering respect for others.”

In line with the statement of entitlement and the 1988 Education Reform Act (ERA), which states that collective worship should be “wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character” and the school’s Anglican foundation, we base our Collective Worship on the teachings of Christ and traditions of the Christian church. It is our aim to ensure that all feel at ease in our acts of worship, secure in the knowledge that they can participate at their own level, without threatening their own beliefs and that we are sensitive to the beliefs and customs of those of other faiths within our school community.

While the majority of acts of worship in our school are Christian, we also explore the values, attitudes and traditions from other faiths by listening to stories and recognising their special festivals.

AIMS OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

The aims of Collective Worship are:

1. To contribute to pupils’ spiritual development:
 - Experience what worship is and what people do when they worship
 - Reflect on and think more deeply about important issues and values
 - Foster a sense of awe and wonder
 - Celebrate all that is of value in life – truth, love, beauty, goodness etc.
 - Develop the ability to use silence creatively
 - Explore mystery and the important questions about life and creation (including difficult experiences)
 - Express their concerns, hopes, joys etc.
 - To build up their relationship with God
 - To help children recognise the power of prayer as one means of communicating with God
2. To gain in knowledge and understanding of the Christian faith:
 - Explore Christian beliefs about God – ‘The Big Story’
 - Learn about the place and significance of the Bible
 - Learn about the significance of Jesus
 - Share in Church life and Christian practice
 - Explore different forms of worship
 - Celebrate the festivals of the Church year
3. To introduce pupils to the worship of the Church of England:
 - Learn some important and famous prayers of Christianity and the Anglican Church
 - Give pupils a bank of prayers to take into adult life
 - Experience different forms of Christian worship

4. To contribute to pupils' moral development:
 - Develop the ability to reflect on moral and social issues
 - Appreciate the values and beliefs that people live by
 - Acknowledge and become more aware of the needs of others
5. To celebrate and take note of the life of the school in the presence of God:
 - Celebrate work undertaken by pupils in all areas of the curriculum
 - Build up a sense of community of the school
 - Develop and reflect on the values of the school
 - Share the achievements, joys, difficulties and sorrows of the whole school community
6. To look out to the wider world:
 - To take note of events in the world and express joy or sorrow as appropriate
 - To celebrate and give thanks for God's world
 - To make links with other communities such as our DLP and LEA Linking Project schools

ORGANISATION AND DELIVERY OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

There is a daily act of collective worship in our school which is based around a theme taken from our Values for Life. As wider community, we have selected 12 Christian Values that we cover over a two year cycle. Our website, reflects the distinct nature of our Christian school, showing these values in action.

The Subject Leader creates long term planning based around 'Values for Life' for the Collective Worship for each half term, based on one of these Christian Values. This then becomes the main focus and is explored through stories from the Bible, current affairs and through the lives of significant people in history and today.

Each week there is:

- Monday – a whole school collective worship
- Tuesday – an in-class collective worship based on Monday's CW, RE lesson, Christian Values and current events.
- Wednesday – a whole school singing collective worship
- Thursday – an in-class collective worship based on Monday's CW, PSHE lesson, Christian Values and current events.
- Friday – a whole school collective worship and celebration of achievement

All of these acts of worship are based on the value selected.

The display board on the altar supports the Collective Worship themes. The Understanding Christianity friezes in the hall, enables pupils to explore seven core concepts of Christianity and make links with the 'Big Story' of the Bible.

Care is taken to provide an atmosphere conducive to worship. Music is used sensitively to provide a calm and reflective start to our worship together and a relevant song or piece of music, along with accompanying images on the screen, are used to help the children to reflect on our value as they enter the hall. Candles and other objects are often used as a focal point for the attention of the children.

A selection of pupils in each class and staff members across school are asked to reflect and respond in different ways during our Collective Worship. Their responses are evidenced in the Large Reflection Book on the altar.

The First Reflection area in the entrance supports the focus of our half term value and gives children the opportunity to reflect and respond. There is also the opportunity to take these activities outside, in the Quiet Area during play times. Children are invited to respond in different ways. For example, write prayers on the current theme and these prayers are then used during our Collective Worship.

The school values the strong links with the Church and regular services take place in Church such as the special festivals in the Liturgical calendar, Harvest, Easter, Ash Wednesday, the church anniversary and the school leaver's service.

The school Eucharist is also an important feature of our school life and these take place termly. Children from Y2 – Y6 attend these. Other schools are also invited to some of our celebrations.

Contributions from different members of the community are valued. Although we are currently in interregnum, our previous vicar, Rev Paul Monk delivered Collective Worship in school termly. We also have visits from other religious figures in our community. In addition, we have half-termly collective worship delivered by Groundbreakers, a team working in Primary schools throughout Manchester.

Parents, carers, families, friends and Governors are very welcome to join the children at Church services and also at our weekly Collective Celebration of Achievement. Our Mission statement upholds the view that we will do the best we can in the sight of God and our weekly Achievement Worship is very much about celebrating achievements both in and out of school. Tea and coffee are served to parents as they drop off their children and come into the hall for the Celebration of Achievement and this family atmosphere adds to our Collective Worship together.

Importantly, we continue to develop the outward-looking Christian mission of the school through partnerships with other schools, such as the DLP cluster and LEA Linking Project School. Pupils attend different places of worship and take part in different religious celebrations. Our recent Ethos Day was a wonderful opportunity for children, staff and families to come together and celebrate the values that form the heart of our school community and also provide the platform for us to launch our new Christian Vision. We also hold a Multi-Faith morning, which involves different religious leaders attending our school and speaking to groups of children.

RIGHT OF WITHDRAWAL

It is made clear to parents that in a church school, collective worship is a vital part of maintaining a particular view of and context for education and our worship theme and acts of worship potentially pervade all of the school day. We acknowledge that any parent can request permission for their child to be withdrawn from acts of worship in accordance with the 1988 Education Reform Act, however parents who wish to do so are requested to discuss their position with the Head teacher.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

All teaching is in accordance with the school policy for equality. We aim to provide equal access across the curriculum, irrespective of gender, ethnicity or ability. Support for learning is provided where necessary.

MONITORING & EVALUATION

The current two-year programme of Collective Worship will be reviewed in July 2026.

The Ethos Committee meet regularly to plan and evaluate the Christian values.

They share responses from their classes about the work covered. Responses help us to see what the children have taken in from each particular theme. The Ethos Committee is made up of two representatives from each class and they meet with the Coordinator and where possible, the Ethos Governor at the beginning and end of each half term to discuss the acts of worship they have been part of, and how they and their class have been impacted by that particular theme.

In response to feedback from the last SIAMS April 2017, pupils are given opportunities to plan and lead collective a worship in order to enhance their spiritual understanding and experience.

They are also strongly involved in charity events and work with our vicar to plan activities to celebrate events in the Christian calendar (see evidence on website).

Each Class has a large RE Book for the children to record their own thoughts and feelings arising from weekly RE lessons, Church services, acts of worship, events in school and at home and to show the impact that the Christian Values are having on them. The School Ethos Committee regularly review these books.

Each half term, children take home a Home School Values sheet containing activities around the specific value being covered that half term. This provides opportunity to talk as a family about the value.

The Subject Leader keeps the School Ethos Book up to date and records examples of the Christian Values in action. This acts as a school diary of all that is done each half term by the staff, children and visitors. This in turn feeds back into our Collective Worship.

LINKS WITH OTHER POLICIES

This policy links with:

- Religious Education Policy
- PSHE, SMSC & British Values Policies
- Equality Policy
- Anti bullying Policy

RESOURCES

Resources for Collective Worship are stored in Cellar 1 in clearly assigned areas. There are also a growing range of books and resources available for class reflection times. The Headteacher also has a collection of materials in his office.

MONITORING & REVIEW

The Head teacher monitors procedures in school and the policy is reviewed regularly by Governors – 3 years unless earlier is deemed necessary.

Policy reviewed – September 2025

Collective Worship Subject LeadersMr T Bunn

Head teacher..... Mr J Whittaker

Chair of GovernorsMrs Rebecca Ashton

Date approved (committee): 1st October 2025

Date adopted (full governors): 1st October 2025

Data Protection Statement

The procedures and practice created by this policy have been reviewed in the light of our Data Protection Policy. All data will be handled in accordance with the school's Data Protection Policy.

Data Audit For The Collective Worship Policy					
What?	Probable Content	Why?	Who?	Where?	When?
Contribution of children to class reflections book. Notes from discussion with Ethos Committee (children)	Names of staff and children	Record of learning and to inform planning	Class teacher, ethos committee, RE co-ordinator, Leadership Team	Class Reflections Books and School Ethos Book. RE Coordinator keeps records of Ethos Committee meetings	Throughout the year Samples kept (Class Reflection books) for a short period of time at the end of the academic year for monitoring & evaluation purposed plus imminent inspections (Ofsted/SIAMS)

As such, our assessment is that this policy:

Has Few / No Data Compliance Requirements	Has A Moderate Level of Data Compliance Requirements	Has a High Level Of Data Compliance Requirements
✓		

This policy will be reviewed every three years or sooner if legislation / school assessment systems change.