Christ Church
Church of England
Primary School

Collective Worship Policy

September 2026

Christ Church C of E School, Colne

Collective Worship Policy



Together we learn, Together we achieve, Together we grow in the light of Christ.



Fundamentals

In this Church of England Voluntary Aided School, Collective worship is in conformity with the ethos statement and rites, practices and doctrines of the Church of England as laid down in the Trust Deed.

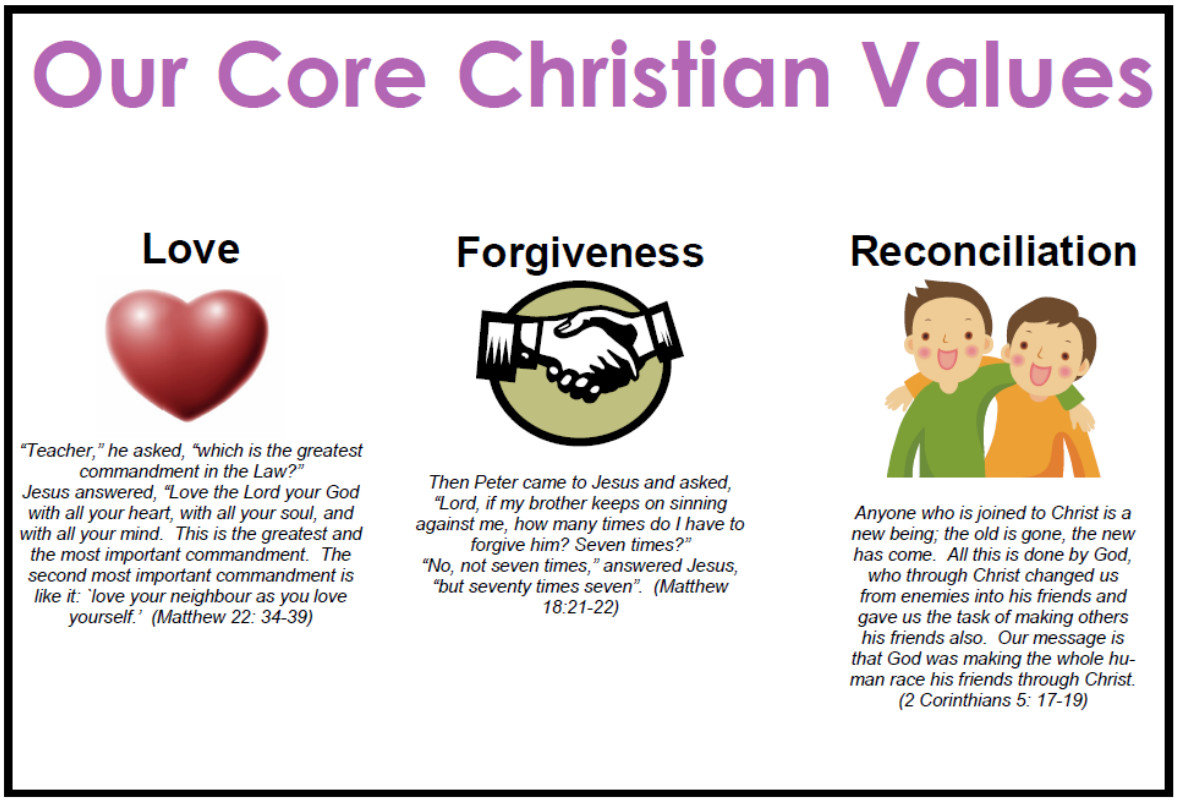
The school's Trust Deed states:

The daily act of collective worship required by law in the School shall be consistent with the faith and practice of the Church of England and the basic curriculum required by law in the school shall include religious education consistent with the faith of the Church of England.

Use should be made, within the provisions of the Education acts for the time being in force, of the Parish Church or other Church of England place of worship, both for occasional acts of collective worship and for religious education.

The school's Ethos Statement is:

> Recognising its historic foundation, the school will preserve and develop its religious character in accordance with the principles of the Church of England and in partnership with the Church at parish and diocesan level.
>
> The school aims to serve its community by providing an education of the highest quality within the context of Christian belief and practice. It encourages an understanding of the meaning and significance of faith, and promotes Christian values through the experience it offers to all its pupils.



The Legal Requirements for Collective Worship at Christ Church

Collective worship in Church Schools is governed by both the 1944 and 1988 Education Acts as well as by the Trust Deed of the School. The Collective Worship provided by the school must be in accordance with the Trust Deed, or in accordance with the tradition before we became an Aided school.

Daily Worship: has to be provided for every pupil. This worship may take place in various groupings such as the whole school, separate Key Stage groups, year groups or house groups or in classes or tutor groups, but not faith groups. Worship may take place at any point in the school day.

Worship in Church: Worship should normally take place on the school premises, but may take place in Church on special occasions.

The Purpose of Collective Worship

The purpose of collective worship is to celebrate and explore Christianity and the Christian Values of our school, enabling all members of the school community to participate in a rich and varied experience of high quality worship. Through our collective worship the Christian ethos of the school will be shared and applied to our daily lives, school routines and relationships. **Collective worship is at the heart of our school life and the Governors see it as an essential part of all pupil's spiritual education**. As such we are concerned to resource it properly and ensure that it is of the highest standard. The worship and prayer life of the school is not limited to the legally required daily acts of worship. Opportunities will be taken to use prayer and reflection in the curriculum generally and at the end of afternoon sessions as well as grace before lunch.

The management of Collective Worship

In a Voluntary Aided Church of England Primary school, such as ours, the management of collective worship is a distinctive role of the governors and Head Teacher. Collective worship has to be in accordance with the Trust Deed and in accordance with the rites, practices and doctrines of the Church of England. The Governing Body as a whole is responsible for determining the nature of Collective Worship provided in the school. That said, the provision of collective worship conforms to Diocesan policy.

Although collective worship and RE naturally compliment and enrich one another they are managed separately. Collective Worship does not form part of the time allocation for Religious Education. Though worship is not designated as curriculum time under the current DFE regulations, it is a major aspect of the whole curriculum provided by the school.

Worship is a vehicle for exploring aspects of Religious Education and the National Curriculum and frequently involves teaching and learning activities such as discussion and question and answer. Pupils may be read to or instructed or they may be asked to listen to readings or to think about and respond to a stimulus such as a work of art.

Worship is also concerned with the celebration of the curriculum, with pupils displaying or recounting details of what they have learnt. Frequently pupils are involved in leading worship or performing through dance, drama or music. When such activities occur, they may be counted as teaching time even though they take place within worship. It is appropriate that, in a Church

School, worship and learning is seen as a seamless whole even though, for the purposes of recording teaching time, we distinguish between the two.

The Church of England Heritage

Forms of worship within our denomination differ and these differences enable us to provide a varied range of approaches to worship whilst remaining true to our Trust Deed. As well as drawing on our denominational heritage, we also expect to draw on the rich tapestry of practice in the world-wide Christian church.

Links with Church

Our school has strong links with Christ Church, church. Our Vicar regularly leads worship both in school and when we meet in church once a month. Additionally, pupils are encouraged to attend and participate at Church on Sundays throughout the year.

Collective Worship Content

As a Church of England Primary School our pupils will be introduced to the key beliefs and aspects of the Christian faith and helped to explore them. Broadly speaking these will include:

- 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, destined for 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 as a source of knowledge about God and Jesus and as a source of inspiration and guidance;
- The importance of prayer;
- The central symbols of Christianity;
- The cycle of the Church year.

Resources

Children at Christ Church learn about 'God's Big Story' (Creation, the Fall, People of God, Incarnation, the Gospels, Salvation and the Kingdom of God) based on materials developed through Blackburn Diocesan Board of Education – which is based on 'Understanding Christianity – RE Today materials (endorsed by the Church of England Education Office). This material has been reviewed by the Worship Lead at the school and developed and personalised to meet the needs of our pupils.

Worship also draws on a range of other materials including 'Collective Worship for Primary Schools' and 'Picture News'. We also, ocassionally use Blackburn Diocese 'Worship Together across the Diocese' materials and have begun to link pupil well-being to stories Jesus told.

Additionally, class worship is based on the 'Values for Life' scheme (Diocese of Gloucester) supplemented by materials from 'Roots and Fruits' (Imaginor Publications).

Collective Worship and Assembly

The school meets together for collective worship but there will be times when we assemble together for other purposes e.g. important notices and announcements. Such 'assembly' times are legally distinct from collective worship and parent's rights to withdraw their children do not apply.

Aims:
Worship aims to enable pupils at Christ Church to:

- **Explore** those questions which are important to everyone
- **Encounter** a faith which is alive
- **Experience** the joy of celebrating God's love

Through the 3 E's we will aim to:

Develop knowledge and understanding of the Christian Faith

- Understanding the significance of Jesus
- Sharing in Church life and Christian practice
- Celebrating the Festivals and Saints Days of the Church year
- Helping pupils understand the nature of God as revealed in Jesus
- Showing that God is concerned with all areas of life

Introduce pupils to the worship of the Church of England

- Learning important and famous prayers of Christianity and of the Anglican Church
- Learning appropriate responses and forms of prayer
- Gaining a repertoire of prayers to take into adult life
- Experiencing different forms of Christian worship and worship material
- Developing links with the local church

Contribute to pupil's spiritual development

- Developing the ability to be still and reflective and use silence creatively
- Learning to pray in a variety of ways
- Understanding what worship is and what people do when they worship
- Foster a sense of awe and wonder at creation
- Exploring mystery and the important questions about life and creation, including the dark side of life, e.g. suffering, loss, death and evil.

Reflect and express hopes, concerns joys and sorrows etc

- Offering opportunities for pupils to build up their relationship with God
- Exploring all that is of value in life – truth, love, goodness, beauty etc

Celebrate, take note of and build up the life of the school in the presence of God

- Celebrating work undertaken by pupils in all areas of the curriculum
- Building up a sense of community of the school
- Developing and reflecting of the values of the school
- Sharing the achievements, joys and difficulties of all members of the school community

Contribute to pupils' moral development

- Exploring and reflecting of moral issues and concerns
- Helping children reflect on their own values, commitments and beliefs
- Helping children develop behaviour based on Christian values
- Helping children to deepen their awareness of the needs of others

Contribute to the general development of children

- Providing them with opportunities for leadership and developing performance skills.
- Develop singing ability.

- Participating in group preparation and presentation

Look out to the wider world
- Take notice of events in the world and express joy or sorrow as appropriate.
- Celebrating and giving thanks for God's world

Bringing children to faith
- Encouraging a closer relationship with God and Jesus
- Developing Christian responses to creation and life such as a sense of being created and loved by God; a sense of thankfulness.

Exploring the beliefs of others
- Listen to stories of other faiths and learn about their significance
- Explore values, attitudes and beliefs shared with members of other faith communities

Organisation and Delivery
Worship is planned by the Worship Lead.

In 2026/27 Worship will focus on:

Monday: Worship will focus on Jesus' and his ministry. We will continue to place this within the context of the 'big story' and God's salvation plan?

Over the course of the academic year we will focus on:
- The Words of Jesus (Autumn 1st half) (*gospels)*
- God's Big Plan (Autumn 2nd half) (*creation, fall, people of God, incarnation)*
- Who was Jesus? (Spring 1st half) (*incarnation, gospels)*
- People Jesus met (Spring 2nd half) (*gospels, salvation)*
- Jesus' teachings (Summer 1st half) (*gospels)*
- Jesus' miracles (Summer 2nd half) (*gospels, kingdom of God)*

Our work will continue to link to God's Big Story…
- **Creation** (God created the heavens and the earth and everything was good),
- **Fall** (humankind spoilt creation and broke the relationship with God - humans became in need of rescue)
- **People of God** (in the Old Testament God tries to restore his relationship with people – choosing particular people to work with him. He spoke through the words of the prophets, but the people did not listen and were awaiting the Messiah),
- **Incarnation** (The arrival of the Messiah, the Saviour, to rescue the people from the results of the fall and restore their relationship with God. Jesus, the Son of God, who came to live among us).
- **Gospels** (Jesus' good news for everyone. His life, ministry and teaching, showing people what it means to live in relationship with God who is their father, and loves them).
- **Salvation** (The death and resurrection of Jesus is the ultimate rescue plan. God's people are saved because, through Jesus, sin is dealt with and forgiveness offered. People can now choose to follow the way back to God).
- **Kingdom of God** (God's kingdom is the world as God intended it to be. Christians look forward to the day when God's kingdom fully comes and earth and heaven are

transformed. Until that time they strive to build the kingdom in their communities, empowered by the Holy Spirit and reflecting Jesus' example in the world).

The values wisdom, hope, community, dignity, joy and peace are determined by the Bible text and therefore throughout each half term we will explore a mixture of these values.

Clergy Led Worship – Tuesday:
This year clergy will focus on 'kindness'. Over the course of the academic year we will consider 100 Bible verses about kindness which will be displayed, as kites, over the course of the year. In second half of the summer term 2027 Rev. Andy, Rev. David and Rev. James will lead 6 acts of worship journeying through scripture which explore how from creation to today God's blessings have never ceased.

Wednesday:
We will explore either Saints and Special People **OR** Picture News materials for that week.

Thursday (Class Worship):
Following on from Summer Term 2026 each class will lead an act of worship each half term based on the following Christian Values:

- Autumn 1st Half – Creativity
- Autumn 2nd Half – Peace
- Spring 1st Half – Justice
- Spring 2nd Half – Forgiveness
- Summer 1st Half – Trust
- Summer 2nd Half – Courage

On the first week of each half term we shall 'sing and praise' which will enable us to learn new hymns for that half term.

Friday – Celebration Praise:
This will be a celebration of our class learning, achievements and awards – celebrating achievements in class and – giving thanks to God for our wonderful gifts and talents. This will be hosted by Mr Peers and/or Mrs Rayner.

The present pattern of worship is:

Day	Time	Type	Led By
Monday	3.00pm – 3.25pm	Whole School Worship (God's Big Story)	Headteacher
Tuesday	10.10am – 10.35am	Whole School Worship	Clergy
Wednesday	3.00pm – 3.20pm	Saints & Special People or Picture News	Assistant Headteacher
Thursday	Variable	Class Worship (Values and Virtues)	Class Teachers / Pupils
Friday	2.45pm 3.30pm	Celebration Praise: a Celebration of Good Work (once every half term) will be led by a specific Year Group	Headteacher / Assistant Head / Class Teachers / Pupils

Parents are invited to attend our half termly celebration assembly.

Parents, and members of the church congregation are also encouraged to attend our monthly Church service. This service starts at 9.15am and is led by clergy.

Key Christian Festivals (Harvest, Christmas, Easter) are also celebrated in Church – children and parents are invited to attend and take part in these services.

Children and parents are also invited to take part in key Sunday church services throughout the course of the church year (Education Sunday, Mothering Sunday etc).

Celebration of Good Work Assembly

Once every half term we take the opportunity to celebrate an individual year group's good work. On a weekly basis we recognise and praise achievement in school activities, sports and out of school clubs and events. Certificates and badges are awarded. Often we take the opportunity in these assemblies to share, nurture and appreciate 'Talent' (dance, drama, music, poetry etc). These assemblies are designed to celebrate the work of the school and each child as a unique child of God. Parents are welcome to attend.

Creating an atmosphere for worship

Music is used to provide a peaceful, calm atmosphere as children enter or leave. It is also used to match the mood or theme of worship whenever possible. There is a cross on our 'worship table' which is used as a focus for school worship. Children are expected to enter and leave the hall in silence. Light is used to signify worship – a candle is lit for whole school worship.

Content and Approaches

During the course of the academic year the content of our worship is generally organised fourfold:

- The observance of the Church year (Advent, Lent, Mothering Sunday, Easter etc)
- Half termly / weekly themes (values)
- Stand alone acts of worship (e.g saints days, ascension, Pentecost etc)
- Celebration of curriculum work

A range of approaches will be used to deliver worship. These include:

- Adult and Pupil led acts of worship
- Story Telling
- Music and Movement
- Drama
- Visual Aids
- Role Play

General Content will include:

- Sharing and taking note of common experience e.g. loss, death, birthdays, jealousy, joy, anger etc
- Expressing concern for others
- Looking at the world – e.g. developing awe and wonder, exploring mystery and pattern.
- Exploring common values, standards and rules
- Topical events
- Celebrating the curriculum
- Sharing and celebrating children's achievements
- Stories e.g faith themes, portraying love and compassion, present truths in story form, myths and legends etc.
- Information about other faiths

Distinctive Christian Content will include:

- Christian Faith and History
- Understanding the nature of the Bible
- Old / New Testament stories
- Church seasons and festivals
- Stories of Saints and Famous Christians – past and present church life and worship
- Christian Beliefs and Values
- Prayer and God
- Exploring ideas about the nature of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit
- Exploring ideas about prayer – saying and learning prayers
- Hymns and songs from the Christian tradition
- Materials from the RE Syllabus that might not otherwise be covered or that we may wish to reinforce.

Consultation, Management, and Recording

- The collective worship coordinator will be responsible for planning and managing collective worship throughout the school.
- The collective worship coordinator will prepare a termly draft plan which will be shared amongst all staff and members of the clergy for consultation and additional contribution.
- The collective worship coordinator will keep records of acts of worship.
- The Worship coordinator and RE Subject leader will jointly identify staff development needs and any additional training needed to support collective worship.
- The Headteacher will report to the Governing Body each term (Via the Headteacher's report) about the content and quality of collective worship.

Monitoring and Evaluation

INSET time will be allocated each year to monitor and evaluate the content, organisation and quality of worship. Staff will evaluate and ensure:

- that there is a variety of styles of worship
- There has been a balance in the leadership between staff, children, visitors and clergy
- There has been a variety of response from the children. This response will help staff to judge the appropriateness and quality of the school's programme.
- Pupils will play a central role in appraising and developing worship.

Parental Rights of withdrawal

The worship and religious education of this school is in accordance with the Church of England or Methodist Church foundation. This foundation is also reflected in the curriculum and the whole life of the school community. Since the conduct of the school as a whole reflects the Church of England or Methodist Church ethos, removal of pupils from worship and / or Religious Education (as parents are legally entitled to do) cannot insulate them from the religious life of the school.

Parents wishing to remove their child from religious education or worship at Christ Church should initially speak to the Headteacher who will seek to explore the reasons for the request and seek to arrive at an accommodation. It may be that only some elements of Religious Education or Worship are objected to.

Complaints about the provision of Collective Worship

It is hoped that any complaint will be resolved informally by the Headteacher, in consultation with the Governors, and possibly with advice from the Diocese. However, if the complaint is not

satisfactorily resolved then formal procedures come into play and will be dealt with in accordance with our complaints policy.

Responsibility for the Policy:
The Headteacher is responsible for the overall implementation and coordination of this policy.

Review
This policy will be regularly reviewed by the Governing Body to assess its value as a working document. Advice on its implementation will be sought from the Headteacher / Collective Worship coordinator and where necessary from the Diocesan Board of Education Adviser.

This policy will next be reviewed in 2027.

Appendix:

Christ Church CE Primary School

Values for Life - Collective Worship - Three Year Overview

	Year 1 *2025/26*	**Year 2** *2026/27*	**Year 3** *2027/28*
Autumn I	**Generosity** (including Harvest)	**Creativity** (including Harvest)	**Thankfulness** (including Harvest)
Autumn II	**Wisdom** (Including Advent)	**Peace** (including Advent)	**Friendship** (including Advent)
Spring I	**Service**	**Justice**	**Truthfulness**
Spring II	**Respect and Reverence** (Including Easter)	**Forgiveness** (including Easter)	**Hope** (including Easter)
Summer I	**Perseverance**	**Trust**	**Compassion**
Summer II	**Responsibility**	**Courage**	**Humility**