

Collective Worship Policy – September 2025



Our Christian Vision

As part of a church school family that grows together in compassion and kindness, we aspire to be the best that we can be.

We flourish through the connections and relationships we nurture, guided by our Christian values.

Our uniqueness is embraced; our faith and beliefs guide us to be courageous enough to stand up for what is right; and bold enough to evoke change in our world, just as Jesus did.

As James 2:18 reminds us, 'I will show you my faith by my actions'

The Collective Worship Policy at St Peter's C of E Primary School pays due regard to statutory requirements, and has taken account of the guidance offered by the LEA through its SACRE and Chelmsford diocese, as a Church of England school.

The Collective Worship Policy of St Peter's C of E Primary School is consistent with the philosophy and aims of the school as expressed on the school website.

Definition of Collective Worship

Collective Worship is a time when the whole school, or groups within the school meet together in order to consider and reflect on common concerns, issues and interests. It offers all pupils an opportunity to worship through engaging in relevant, meaningful experiences and provides opportunities for the pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

Aims of Collective Worship

For the School:

Collective Worship contributes significantly to the ethos St Peter's C of E Primary School and it is our aim that it is a time when the school community can:

- share common aims and values
- celebrate achievement and special times
- explore together the world in which we live
- develop a community spirit
- worship through song and music

For the Pupils:

We intend that Collective Worship contributes to the development of the pupil as a 'whole' person by providing opportunities to:

- consider spiritual and moral issues
- explore their own beliefs
- develop their own spirituality
- reinforce positive attitudes
- participate and respond
- reflect on what it means to be human
- provide opportunities for stillness and peace

The Contribution of Collective Worship to aspects of the Curriculum

Collective Worship time is distinct from curriculum time, however, in St Peter's C of E Primary School, Collective Worship will at times feature aspects of the curriculum, which will enhance the experiences of pupils by reflecting on the work done in classes through class assemblies and the ACE assembly. At times, Collective Worship will enrich classwork through its consideration of subject matter from different perspectives.

The provision of opportunities for pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is in line with school policy which informs our practice. To ensure Collective Worship provides opportunities for spiritual, moral, social and cultural development it should incorporate a wide variety of themes and topics. We use diverse stimuli and resources and provide pupils with the opportunity to 'respond' at their own level.

The Management of Collective Worship

The Deputy Headteacher will plan, monitor and evaluate acts of Collective Worship, alongside the Headteacher. When possible, children will be involved in planning and evaluating collective acts of worship. A governor will be appointed to monitor collective acts of worship.

The Organisation of Collective Worship

Collective Worship is organised to provide a variety of groupings and will take place in the school hall, or the classroom.

Acts of worship will usually last for approximately 15 minutes, although it is recognised that this time will be shortened or lengthened when it is appropriate.

The children in KS2 are involved in preparing for the act of worship and they help to lead parts of the service.

The weekly rota of collective acts of worship is as follows:

- ✓ *Monday*: Singing– children use music and song as a means of expression to worship and celebrate.
- ✓ *Tuesday*: Collective worship is held in class groups linked to, for example, the world around us, school values, personal development.
- ✓ *Wednesday*: Open the Bible led by members of the church community to deepen the children's understanding of 'the big story' of the Bible.
- ✓ *Thursday*: Whole school worship lead by headteacher, deputy headteacher, teachers or visitors linked to the worship theme of the half term.

- ✓ *Friday*: 'ACE assembly' to celebrate learning linked to our vision statement *Aspire, Care and Empower*.

Leadership

Every member of the teaching staff and occasional visitors will be involved in leading acts of worship at some point in the school year.

Planning Acts of Collective Worship

The content of all acts of Collective Worship will be considered carefully, to ensure relevance and suitability for the ages, aptitudes and backgrounds of all pupils. This will be inclusive and inspiring for all.

Planning is linked to our Christian values, giving examples linked to the life and teaching of Jesus and other elements of the Old and New Testament. Due regard will be given to other major world religions and viewpoints in relation to the theme, while remaining predominantly Christian in nature.

Termly planning lists themes, special occasions and events, but will be flexible to allow the inclusion of current and topical issues. This will ensure that there is continuity and progression, and enable the monitoring and evaluation of acts of worship to take place. The planning for the Open the Bible is planned separately but is linked to the Christian values.

Visitors will be welcomed to lead Collective Worship from time to time and will be given guidance on acts of Collective Worship at St Peter's C of E Primary School. We aim to give the children the opportunity to explore different faiths, community and Church links and opportunities to hear from local and national charities.

The Act of Collective Worship

A variety of teaching and learning styles and active and interactive methods are appropriate in acts of Collective Worship. Any and all of the methods employed in the classroom can be used effectively in acts of Collective Worship. A variety of resources will also be used. Leaders will choose the style/method and resources which are appropriate to the content, the age, aptitude and the background of the pupils.

The content and process must be sufficiently stimulating in order to evoke a response in the individual. This may not be visual, but opportunity must be given to express this response through reflection and prayer.

If announcements are to be given at the same time as an act of worship then they will be of a positive nature, which at times may enhance the act of worship itself. Announcements will be made following the act of worship and a clearly defined break between them and the act of worship will be made. (A change of personnel, music, a moment of silence etc)

Withdrawal

Any parent who objects to their child attending an act or acts of Collective Worship may request that their child is withdrawn. Parents are encouraged to discuss this with the headteacher. Any pupil who is withdrawn from an act or acts of Collective Worship will be supervised during that time by a member of the school staff.

Evaluation

Governor monitoring of Collective Worship will include pupil perception interviews to enable the children to reflect on the act of worship, and their understanding of the themes discussed.