



# Collective Worship Policy

**Love Friendship Courage Hope**

*St. Nicholas School is a Voluntary Controlled Church of England Primary School. We provide a daily act of collective worship for all pupils that, following the school's Trust Deed, is in accordance with the principles and practices of the Church of England. Our school motto 'Love your neighbour as yourself.' Matthew 22.37 is at the core of all we do, including our worship.*

## Aims

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We aim to give the children opportunities to:

- Have time to stop and think about what they believe and how that affects the way they live their lives.
- Talk to others about what they believe.
- Develop their own beliefs and spirituality.
- Celebrate their own achievements and faith if they have one.
- Reflect and pray.
- Consider and reflect upon spiritual and moral issues.
- Understand and value other people's beliefs.
- Be awake to the sense of wonder and mystery inherent in being human.
- Strengthen their sense of belonging within a community.
- Celebrate and value diversity within our school, immediate and wider community.

## Implementation

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The school community comes together on a daily basis for an act of worship or celebration.

These acts of worship are usually held in the school hall. These have been held at the Chapel and at the end of term and for Harvest they are held at St. Nicholas Church. These are led in collaboration with the church community; services at the church are planned with and led by children from school wherever possible and are linked to the work we are doing in school in worship. Parents, governors, and other friends of the school are invited to share in these special occasions.

Member of St. Nicholas Church community and representatives from other Christian denominations visit the school and lead whole school assemblies.

The school works in collaboration with all visitors to ensure wherever possible that there are robust links between the lessons and thinking that is shared with the children. All those who lead acts of worship are required to meet the school's British Values guidance (please see website for details).

The Collective worship plan is usually, clergy capacity allowing, written by the collective team led by Headteacher. Links are made between the two main worships, Monday and Open the Book, each week. The same liturgy and hymn may be used through all acts of worship in the week to support children to make the links.



## Content of collective worship

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The exploration and development of children’s understanding of Christian values lies at the centre of all school assemblies. The exploration of these values is linked to events in the church calendar and to school-specific content relating to the development of the school’s ethos. We usually identify a school theme which we will be focusing on and weave this through the daily life of the school.

The format for school collective worship will almost always include a clear introduction to the theme which can be illustrated, for example, by a story or news item followed by liturgy, further reflection and a closing prayer. Music and hymns are used to support the theme. Throughout the term each main act of worship will clearly build on those which have preceded it.

The development of worship themes is explored and illustrated through some of the following:

- Links to the village community and beyond
- National and international events
- Stories and poems from religious literature
- Stories about people who have demonstrated strong commitment to a religious and/or humanitarian cause or belief
- Themes that relate to basic human needs (water, food, shelter, freedom...)
- Themes that examine the choices we face individually and collectively (environment, racism, poverty...)
- Themes that reflect upon feelings and emotions (jealousy, love, anger...)
- Pupil discussions
- Celebrations of children’s own work and achievements.
- Choice of hymns or music

Resources to support collective worship are kept in the staff room and links are made on the collective worship plan.

## Whole school worship

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Whole school worship is taken by the head teacher or visitors from the Church or Chapel on Monday to start the week. This is then developed over the week within the school. A record of themes and resources is kept electronically. Teachers are given an overview of the term’s worship plan. Teachers follow up the values covered in worship within their classes so that these can be applied and contextualized on an ongoing basis.

Hall monitors from Thorn Class are responsible for organising audio-visual resources and hymn books, under the direction of the teacher or leader responsible for worship.

The school ambassadors lead celebration worship on Friday, which also uses the same liturgy and hymn as the week and the children write their own prayer linked to the theme and have developed a call and response opening to our collective worship.



## Rights of withdrawal

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Parents have the right to withdraw their child(ren) from acts of collective worship. Teachers also may withdraw.

## Specific responsibilities

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The implementation of this policy is the responsibility of the school governors, in consultation with the head teacher and staff. The head teacher reports briefly on collective worship within each term’s report to the governing body.

Date of issue:	March 2025
Review Date	March 2027
To be reviewed	Headteacher and Foundation Governor
Authorised by	Headteacher