



St. Peter & St. Paul CE Primary School, Burgh-le-Marsh
"Striving for excellence together in a caring Christian community."



RESPECT COMPASSION COURAGE

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

Responsibility: Governing Body

Approved: September 2025

To be reviewed: Every two years (or earlier if legislation changes)

Last reviewed:

Introduction

St. Peter and St. Paul CE Primary School is a Voluntary Controlled Church of England Primary School. In addition to the national legal requirement for daily worship, our Trust Deed states that worship should be "in accordance with the principles and practices of the Church of England" and reflect the School Ethos Statement in the Statutory Instrument of Government.

Collective Worship takes place every day for all pupils. **Collective Worship is distinct from Religious Education (RE):** it complements RE but does not replace or substitute for curriculum RE teaching.

Aims of Collective Worship

As a Church of England school, Collective Worship is the "heartbeat of the school." It aims to provide opportunities for:

Spiritual Development

- Provide a sense of belonging to a group that shares and celebrates together.
- Encourage connectedness to others and a sense of responsibility for the wider world.
- Support reflection on self, life, and relationships as part of a bigger picture.
- Foster wonder, inspiration, and the challenge to live differently.
- Encourage exploration of personal faith and relationship with God, including adoration, praise, thanksgiving, and contemplation.

Emotional Development

- Explore and reinforce the school's Christian values.
- Provide stillness and quiet reflection in a busy day.
- Celebrate gifts, talents, and achievements.
- Learn about different ways of worshipping, imagery, and symbolism.
- Engage with the local church community and the Christian calendar.
- Consider spiritual questions arising in the wider curriculum.

Inclusivity

- Ensure Collective Worship is appropriate for all ages, aptitudes, and backgrounds.
- Respect the integrity of each individual.
- Enable children to explore and evaluate their own beliefs.
- Include parents, governors, and members of the local community from time to time.

Implementation

- Collective Worship takes place daily, usually in the school hall at 8:55am.
- Leadership schedule:
 - **Monday & Thursday:** Headteacher or delegated teacher
 - **Tuesday:** Baptist Team
 - **Wednesday:** Class-based pre-recorded assemblies
 - **Friday:** Parish priest, including “Pupils of the Week”
- If the hall is unavailable, Collective Worship continues virtually, often streamed from a classroom.
- All Collective Worship has a clear **theme**, linked to school values, Christian values, or current curriculum events.
- Planning Collective Worship follows the same level of detail as any classroom learning activity.
- Collective Worship incorporates a wide variety of stimuli: stories, music, art, poetry, drama, puppets, questioning, singing, and praying.

Anglican Distinctiveness

- The Bible is a prominent source of teaching.
- Collective Worship reflects the Anglican year: Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, Pentecost, and some saints’ days.
- Use of liturgical colours, Christian symbols, and artefacts is explored.
- Songs may be religious in content.
- Collective Worship follows a liturgical pattern (Gathering → Engaging → Responding → Sending).
- Anglican sentences and responses are used, e.g., “The Lord be with you ... and also with you.”

Participation

- Collective Worship is **voluntary in prayer and reflection**; children and staff may pray in their own way or simply reflect.
- Facilitators are encouraged to avoid assuming faith in all participants.
- Opportunities for stillness, guided reflection, and active participation are provided.

Monitoring and Evaluation

- Governors hold overall responsibility for legal compliance; the Headteacher has statutory accountability for Collective Worship taking place.
- A representative governor attends at least one session per term and provides feedback.

- Evaluation incorporates pupil and staff voice, collected through questionnaires, reflections, or discussions.
 - Collective Worship is reviewed regularly as part of the school's policy cycle.
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Parental Rights

- Parents may withdraw their child from Collective Worship.
- The school provides supervision for withdrawn children without additional cost, and parents are not required to give reasons.
- This complies with the 1944 Education Act and was restated in the 1988 Education Reform Act. Any withdrawal request remains in place unless we are notified in writing to the contrary.