



St Gabriel's C of E Primary School



COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY Autumn 2025



1. How is the policy a reflection of our theologically rooted Christian vision?

(Add a short paragraph explaining how the structure and planning of collective worship embodies and lives out the school's theologically rooted Christian vision.)

St Gabriel's Mission Statement

Excellence with compassion* is at the heart of St Gabriel's. We are a Church of England school and value our strong links with the parish church of St Gabriel's and the Pimlico community. We seek to provide an excellent education for all our pupils, rooted in compassion, understanding, respect and equality for all.

*(*Colossians 3: 23 & 12: 23 Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters.... And... 12 Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with COMPASSION, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.)*

Collective Worship is integral in achieving our school aims. Linking directly to our ethos of excellence with compassion are our 6 core values. One value is focused on per term and is planned specifically with the academic and Christian calendar in mind.

Term	Value	Why this time of the year?	Bible reference
Term 1	Friendship	The start of the school year, new children making friends, and how we can be the best friends throughout the year.	Proverbs 27:9 A sweet FRIENDSHIP refreshes the soul.
Term 2	Peace	Coincides with the period of Remembrance and the approach advent and Christmas, where we mark the Peace the Jesus brought.	Colossians 3 verse 15: Let the PEACE of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful.
Term 3	Service	After Christmas we are looking at the gift of Jesus and how he served mankind. We also explore how we can use our gifts to serve others.	1 Peter 4:10 God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to SERVE on another.
Term 4	Endurance	This links to Lent and the approach to Easter in the church calendar. We look at this in relation to what Jesus had to endure, and what helped him at this time and we apply this to ourselves and the importance of endurance and not giving up.	Hebrews 12:1 Let us run the race with ENDURANCE the race that God has set before us.
Term 5	Justice	We link justice to all of our values and directly to Excellence with Compassion. We look at how fairness is directly related to being compassionate to all.	Amos 5:24 "But let JUSTICE roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream!"
Term 6	Wisdom	As we come to the end of the school year and a time for transition. We reflect on what Wisdom is and how we may have developed in this value over the year.	James 3: 17-18 But the WISDOM that comes from above leads us to be pure, friendly, gently and sincere. When peacemakers plant seeds of peace, they will harvest justice.

- At the beginning of each new term, the children spend time in class discussing what the value means to them individually. They create prayers and art work to share with the whole school in Family assembly.
- There is whole school collective worship 4 times a week. When it is not whole school, there is an act of worship in class.

Monday: Collective worship is predominantly linked to the reading from the LDBS collective worship resource. This is also then connected to the value for the term.



Tuesday: Collective Worship is themed around hymns and the meaning of what we sing. This is led by our vicar and a member of SLT.

Wednesday: Classroom act of worship linked to the school value. One KS2 class takes part in Mass with St Gabriel's priest.

Thursday: Family Assembly – the whole school community comes together and parents are invited. The value for the term is reinforced during the act of worship and this is a celebration of children's achievements.

Friday: At the start of the year, we look at the Bible Timeline, then move on to looking at different figures from the old and new testament, who may reflect our values, or/and different global majority inspirational individuals, from different cultural or religious backgrounds.

2. Introduction

In Church of England schools, collective worship is seen as more than a daily 'awe and wonder' moment. It is the unique heartbeat of the school and will be offered as part of a wider opportunity for pupils and adults to encounter faith by engaging in conversations about God, both as individuals and together.

We want pupils to leave school with a rich experience and understanding of Christianity, and we are committed to offering them an encounter with Jesus Christ and with Christian faith and practice in a way that enhances their lives...Collective worship in schools, including prayer, reading and reflecting on the Bible, liturgy, sacrament and experience of the musical and other imaginative riches of Christianity, provide a vital opportunity for this.¹

¹ The Church of England Education Office, *Church of England Vision for Education: Deeply Christian, Serving the Common Good*. (The Church of England Education Office 2016) page 10

Collective worship is a sacred and significant time of each school day, where we gather together as a whole school family. Collective worship strengthens and supports the Christian identity of our school and reaffirms our Christian vision and associated values of **St Gabriel's School**.

3. Aims of Collective Worship

- Offer the opportunity, without compulsion, to all pupils and adults to grow spiritually through experiences of prayer, stillness, worship and reflection.
- Help pupils and adults to appreciate the relevance of faith in today's world by encountering the teachings of Jesus and the Bible and developing understanding of the Christian belief in the trinitarian nature of God.
- To reflect the parish tradition of worship, while giving experience over time for pupils to experience the breadth of Anglicanism.
- Enable all pupils and adults to appreciate that Christians worship in different ways, for example using music, silence, story, prayer, reflection, as well as through the varied liturgical and other traditions of Anglican worship and festivals. In liaison with St Gabriel's Church vicar, this also includes Eucharist.
- Explore the school's Christian vision and how that underpins shared values and virtues.



- Enable pupils the opportunity to make a positive contribution to worship through involvement with aspects of the planning, leading and evaluation of collective worship.

4. Legal requirements

Collective worship:

- Should be conducted in accordance with the Trust Deed of the school and Instrument of Government and be consistent with the beliefs and practices of the Church of England.
- Unless the right of withdrawal has been exercised all pupils must take part each day in an act of collective worship (DfE circular 1/94 para. 51) and the Governing Body should ensure that all pupils **each day** engage in a distinctively Christian act of worship.
- Arrangements for collective worship in foundation schools of a religious character (i.e. church schools) are the responsibility of the Governing Body, after consultation with the headteacher (DfE Circular 1/94 para 52&53).

5. Planning of worship

Collective worship is planned by a variety of stakeholders including staff, the incumbent of our linked church/es and external visitors in consultation with the collective worship leader and governors.

The daily Christian act of worship is central to our Christian ethos. It makes an important contribution to the spiritual flourishing of the whole school community. We are committed to providing a daily act of Christian worship which is truly welcoming, inclusive and exemplifies the principles of Christian hospitality.

Collective worship can take place at any time of the school day and in any regular school grouping e.g. whole school or key stage. Our school plans systematically, using both long term and short term plans which enables continuity and cohesion. We use a variety of resources to support our worship [including the LDBS Collective Worship Planning](#).

We are mindful of the variation in personal spiritual styles and our planning incorporates a range of creative opportunities to enable all to engage in the acts of worship. These include: [music](#), [silence](#), [symbolism](#), [drama](#), [use of IT](#).

When planning acts of worship, we follow the Church of England guidance to ensure that worship is:

- **Inclusive** – Our acts of worship recognise that pupils and staff come from homes of different faith backgrounds as well as no faith backgrounds, so it will be inclusive of, and fully accessible to all. Care will be taken to ensure that language used by those facilitating worship avoids assuming faith of those participating, listening or watching.
- **Invitational** – In our acts of worship, there is no compulsion to ‘do anything’. Rather, worship will provide the opportunity to engage whilst allowing the freedom of those of different faiths and those who profess no religious faith to be present and to engage with integrity. Pupils and adults will only be invited to pray if they wish to do so.
- **Inspiring** – By asking and discussing big questions about who we are and what we do in worship we hope to motivate pupils and adults into action. There will be opportunities to think, reflect and ponder on their and the wider community’s behaviour and actions.



6. Pattern of Worship

Our pattern of worship is as follows:

Our worship consists of 4 parts:

- **Gather** – we welcome the community, a representative from every class brings their class candle to the front, there is music, lighting of a candle and the Peace.
- **Engage** – we share, for example, *a Bible reading, followed by an activity to engage pupils with the Christian message*
- **Respond** – pupils, for example, *discuss, share, reflect, pray or sing*
- **Send** – we share, for example, *the message of the worship again and ask pupils to think about how they will affect their day / learning/ behaviour. We close with a final prayer, music, liturgy and/or the blowing out of our special candle)*

7. Collective worship leader

The leader for collective worship is responsible for long term planning of worship, leading acts of worship and supporting staff and pupils who are planning and leading aspects of worship. The leader also monitors the quality of worship and evaluates its impact across the school community.

8. Visitors leading worship

Visitors to our school are asked to read and comply with our school visitor and safeguarding policies [available in the office and on our website](#). This should include discussing the content of any worship with a member of the senior leadership in order to ascertain its suitability for the school community. Visitors are never left alone with children as the supervision of pupils remains the responsibility of school staff.

It is the responsibility of the collective worship leader and senior leaders to ensure that all visitors, who are leading worship in school, will be trained and properly briefed about the school, its context and our school's vision. Please refer to LDBS guidance for visitors leading worship.

9. CPD and training

Parents, pupils and adults in school are entitled to be led in Christian worship by those who have a secure understanding of the nature of collective worship in a church school context. Therefore, all those leading worship, including clergy, should have access to regular diocesan led training.

10. Monitoring and evaluation

Our school regularly evaluates our acts of collective worship and the impact they have on pupils and adults within the school community.



This involves monitoring by school leaders, the collective worship leader and governors and takes place both informally and formally. Everyone who leads worship is asked to evaluate, reflecting on how they can improve and develop their practice. We welcome the views of all those who participate in our worship, including pupils, parents, and visitors. Feedback is taken through stakeholder survey. This feedback plays an essential part in developing the spiritual growth of our school community.

Foundation governors and the worship leader observe and evaluate worship once every **year** and report back to the whole governing body.

The impact of collective worship is independently inspected by law under Section 48 of the Education Act 2005 (SIAMS).

11. Parents and Carers

As a school we recognise that a partnership with parents/carers is essential to help pupils flourish. Worship is regarded as special time in our school day where we gather as a school family. Reflecting our ethos as a Church of England school, collective worship is an inclusive opportunity for those of all faiths and none to be present with integrity.

We respect the legal right of parents to withdraw their child/children from acts of collective worship, However, in view of the Christian ethos and distinctive Christian character of our school, we hope that all pupils will participate in collective worship, and that anyone wishing to withdraw their child will discuss this with the headteacher before making their decision. Following these discussions, any desire to formally withdraw pupils from worship must be done via a letter to the Headteacher.

12. Evaluation / Review

This policy is reviewed regularly by the collective worship leader in consultation with the Headteacher and ratified every **three years** by the Governing Body.

Date of validation 26th September 2025 Signed: Fr Owen Higgs.
Chair of Governors

Date of review: Autumn 2027 Signed Fr Owen Higgs.
Chair of Governors