



## COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

### Academic Year 2023-24

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<b>Last Reviewed</b>	<b>March 2024</b>
<b>Next Review date</b>	<b>March 2027</b>
<b>Frequency of review</b>	<b>Every 3 years</b>

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## 1. Rationale

Our collective worship policy strengthens and supports the distinctiveness of our school, reaffirms our vision and associated values of **respect, compassion, friendship, service, trust and justice** and celebrates the central role that each child has to play in their community. Our worship reflects the variety of traditions found in the Church of England, and will recognise and follow the Christian liturgical year. The daily act of collective worship is central to our ethos and is supported by all staff and governors. It makes an important contribution to the overall spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of the whole school community.

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 is 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. ([CEEQ Guidance for Collective Worship](#) (2021))*

Therefore, collective worship at St Oswald's CE Primary School is planned to:

- Explore the school's vision and how that underpins shared values and virtues. In doing so, it will reflect on moral values such as compassion, gratitude, justice, humility, forgiveness, and reconciliation, and develop virtues such as resilience, determination and creativity that develop character and contribute to academic progress.
- 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.
- Offer the opportunity, without compulsion, to all pupils and adults to grow spiritually through experiences of prayer, stillness, worship and reflection.
- 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.
- Enable pupils to develop skills through engaging in the planning, leading and evaluation of collective worship in ways that lead to improving practice.
- Be inspirational and inclusive, engaging all learners. They can talk about the impact it makes on their relationships and on life in the school.
- Help all learners to understand Anglican and other Christian traditions found in the UK and worldwide.
- An opportunity to celebrate and give thanks for achievements with the school, local and international community, and occasions of significance, including festivals.

## 2. Legal Requirements

The law requires the Headteacher and Governing Body of every school to provide a daily act of collective worship which is in line with the schools Trust Deed and foundation.

### **Withdrawal from Collective Worship**

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from acts of worship. Parental contact needs to be made with the Headteacher. Guidance for new parents on non-participation can be requested via the school office.

### **3. Inclusion and Equal Opportunities**

At St Oswald's CE Primary School, we welcome our duties under the Equality Act 2010. We do not discriminate against, harass or victimise any pupil, prospective pupil or other member of the school community because of their:

- Sex
- Age
- Marriage and civil partnership
- Race
- Disability
- Religion/Belief
- Sexual Orientation
- Gender Reassignment
- Pregnancy or Maternity

St Oswald's CE Primary School aims to promote pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development, with special emphasis on promoting equality, diversity and eradicating prejudicial incidents for pupils and staff. We are committed to increasing understanding and appreciation for diversity which is interwoven into our collective worships alongside general school practice.

*For more information can be found in our Equality Objectives and Statement.*

### **4. Planning Collective Worship**

Specific time is set aside for this activity, and we recognise the importance of marking out the act of collective worship from other assembly activities. We attempt to mark this special time by:

- Lighting a candle
- Creating representational models of our school family 'coming together'
- Allowing a moment of reflection
- Greeting and ending in a recognisable manner

Each person leading worship is expected to plan their act of worship with the same degree of thoroughness as any other aspect of their teaching. We encourage a 4-stage structure of planning including:

- Gathering
- Engaging
- Responding
- Sending

The Collective Worship Co-ordinator reviews and evaluates each term's impact and makes adjustments accordingly, feeding back to staff where appropriate.

A Collective Worship Team is made up of Year 5/6 pupils annually and these pupils are encouraged to be involved in the planning, leading and delivery of collective worship.

Rev'd Canon Sue Sheriff, one of the school governors, joins collective worship regularly throughout the year to further promote collective worship as an integral part of school. The Governing Body is also invited to attend collective worship during regular intervals throughout the year.

The programme of acts of collective worship is co-ordinated by **Mrs R Houston**.

## 5. Our Pattern of Collective Worship

- *Whole school worship* – is held three times a week. These are taken predominantly by the Head teacher, but other staff volunteer and all staff, not just teaching staff, have the opportunity to lead a collective worship.
- *Class worship* – is held once a week. These are taken by class teachers.
- *Phase worship* – is held once a week. These are led by teaching staff on a rotating basis.

External visitors, who are outside of the local school community, are welcome to attend and lead collective worship throughout the year. Recent visitors have included SACRE, the local church Reverend and York Schools and Youth Trust (YOYO).

Acts of worship generally follow themes that are linked to the school's vision and values and include the pattern of the church's year.

## 6. Visitors

Visitors should understand the educational aims of collective worship at the school and the need to avoid any proselytising. Attempts to persuade pupils to adopt a particular religious or non-religious belief are not appropriate. In general, the Headteacher is consulted before a visiting speaker is confirmed. Visitors should not speak about raising money for any particular cause(s) without the prior permission of the Headteacher.

## 7. Staff and Community Involvement in Collective Worship

Certain named individuals (Head teacher, Deputy Head teacher, Senior Leadership Team, Collective Worship Co-ordinator) are involved on a regular basis with the worship programme.

Other staff and pupils are given the opportunity of being involved in this programme every term.

## 8. Monitoring and Evaluation

Our school regularly evaluates our acts of collective worship and the impact it has on the school and its wider community. This involves monitoring by school leaders and staff in order to allow it to grow and develop. We also welcome the contributions of parents, pupils and governors through the form of parent surveys. This feedback provides an integral part in developing the spiritual growth of the school. Worship is independently inspected by law under Section 48 of the Education Act 2005 in consultation with the Diocese of York (SIAMS)