



The Diocese of Coventry  
Multi Academy Trust

**St John's C of E Academy**  
**Collective Worship Policy**

**Policy date: November 2025**

**Review date: November 2028**

**Changes to policy November 2025:**

-Page 5 – Year B added.

-Page 6 – timings of Collective Worship amended to reflect timetabling 2025-2026.

-Page 6 – source of Collective Worship on Wednesday and Thursday added.

## **I will shine. Together we will shine.**

*You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.*

**Matthew 5: 14-16**

The member of staff responsible for Collective Worship Mrs Laura Stevenson.

In accordance with the law for all schools and academies, at St John's, we hold a daily act of collective worship which is of a broadly Christian character, reflecting the diverse traditions of Christian belief and marking the cycle of the church's year.

We strive to ensure that our acts of collective worship (or 'assemblies') are inspirational, invitational and inclusive for *all* members of our school community.

<p><i>Parents have the right to withdraw their children from the daily act of worship, but are urged to discuss the matter with the Headteacher before making a decision so to do.</i></p>
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### **AIMS:**

- + To foster a sense of personal 'worship' and collective fellowship, bringing the whole school community together.
- + To explicitly link our vision and values to scripture and help staff and children grow on their own spiritual journeys as we focus on those values.
- + To create an atmosphere of occasion and reverence where those who wish to worship feel supported and where others are brought into a meaningful encounter with something beyond themselves.
- + To encourage in pupils a reflective approach to life.
- + To introduce various aspects of religious worship to involve pupils and inspire everyone attending: prayer, singing, music, drama, silent reflection, art, poetry, story.
- + To foster deepening understanding of theological concepts and the power of symbolism and metaphor e.g. Trinity, Light, Bread et al.
- + To provide opportunities to explore sensitively with pupils what is meaningful and significant to them in the face of life's mysteries, including the 'darker' side of life.
- + To celebrate all that is good and lovely about life - especially our school community, our friends and families and the natural world.
- + To foster feelings of gratitude and courageous advocacy.
- + To foster an understanding that faith transcends politics and geographical boundaries as we make meaningful links with Christians across our Diocese, our country and the world.

## ORGANISATION/ VENUE:

Acts of worship are led by senior leaders, staff, children, clergy and invited visitors. Collective Worship is not RE although they can and should complement each other. The dedicated time for Collective Worship is between fifteen and twenty minutes per day.

Whole school worship takes place in our hall which has many other functions throughout the school day. To create an atmosphere of 'special time and sacred space', we give careful attention to:

- + having a worship table which has a cloth to match the colours of the liturgical year;
- + having a visual focus: candles, a cross, a plant, etc.;
- + having a Bible on display;
- + having carefully chosen music playing as we enter and leave the hall
- + sometimes displaying a relevant picture, phrase or question on the screen to direct thinking and encourage reflection whilst waiting for worship to begin
- + on occasions, having everyone entering and singing one of our well-known worship songs
- + making particular reference to the Big Frieze when reading something from the Bible.
- + expecting that everyone (children and adults alike) enters the hall in an intentionally reflective manner.
- + minimising interruptions from people walking through the hall during worship time.

We pattern our worship along the lines of Anglican worship: *Gathering, Engaging, Responding and Sending out.* (see Flippin Praise).

A similar structure is recommended in *Roots and Shoots*, and these symbols are used in displays to help deepen children's understanding and spiritual growth.

**Candles** to **welcome** everyone.

An open **window** to represent new **learning**.

A **mirror** to symbolise **reflection**.

A **door** to signify our **response** as worship comes to an end.

In consideration of the Church of England Vision for Education 2018 based on John 10:10, we have started to develop a four-year long-term plan for Collective Worship. However, we recognise that, on occasions, best practice is to relate our worship to local, national or international events that are current and relevant to the children's lives.

We have carefully planned where the values expounded in the Church of England Vision will be included within the overarching framework of our six school values:

Year A	St John's core value	Christian values included over the half term
Autumn 1	Identity	Wisdom, Respect, Dignity, Hope, Joy, Justice, Generosity, Forgiveness, Perseverance, Stewardship
Autumn 2	Drive	Courage, Trust, Joy, Dignity, Wisdom, Courageous Advocacy
Spring 1	Character	Forgiveness, Compassion, Redemption, Courage, Faithfulness, Friendship, Justice.
Spring 2	Excellence	Dignity, Humility, Hope, Perseverance, Peace, Righteousness, Community, Sacrifice, Joy.
Summer 1	Teamwork	Community, Hope, Aspiration, Dignity, Generosity, Friendship, Service, Courageous Advocacy, Perseverance, Faith.
Summer 2	Stewardship	Service, Courageous Advocacy, Faith, Thankfulness, Hope, Forgiveness, Courage, Justice, Generosity, Wisdom

Year B	St John's core value	Christian values included over the half term
Autumn 1	Identity	Dignity, Hope, Aspiration, Joy, Compassion, Wisdom, Trust
Autumn 2	Drive	Respect, Hope, Peace, Community, Wisdom, Courageous Advocacy
Spring 1	Character	Wisdom, Community, Peace, Resilience, Trust, Hope, Wisdom
Spring 2	Excellence	Forgiveness, Wisdom, Community, Justice, Courageous Advocacy
Summer 1	Teamwork	Joy, Faith, Hope, Service, Aspiration, Friendship
Summer 2	Stewardship	Service, Thankfulness, Community, Generosity, Thankfulness, Courageous Advocacy

### Other types of Worship

Each class leads an act of collective worship throughout the year linked to one of our school values. To celebrate and showcase their learning to the school, and to their family members. This includes a prayer and a song.

Other opportunities to lead collective worship come through our child leadership opportunities.

Occasionally our worship takes place in St Christopher's Church at times of major festivals in

the Christian calendar - Harvest, Ash Wednesday, Ascension, Remembrance, Christmas, Easter and for our Leavers Service in July.

When on residential visits, we hold a daily act of worship, sometimes outdoors when possible.

Our 'normal' weekly pattern of worship is as follows:

Mon	3pm	Whole-school Worship led by Headteacher or Senior Leader
Tues	3pm	Whole-school Worship led by a member of staff / visitor
Wed	Staff to choose an appropriate time for their class.	Wellbeing Wednesday collective worship – based on local, national or world events, including links to British Values and the Rights of a Child OR Whole-school Worship led by a visitor, usually from St Christopher’s Church, at either 9.10am or 3pm
Thurs	Staff to choose an appropriate time for their class.	Class based worship – I Sing Pop <a href="#">iSingPOP   Resourcing Schools and Churches to Explore Worship</a>
Fri	9.10 am	Celebration Assembly – parents invited – led by SLT

### **Pupil involvement in planning and evaluating including Worship Group**

There are regular child-led opportunities for planning, leading and evaluating whole school worship linked to the vision and values. These are delivered by our Junior Leadership Team or Kindness Ambassadors.

Prayer Garden team – independently and on a daily basis, children plan, resource and lead 'Christianity' sessions for younger children including: Prayer, Dance, Bible Stories, Drama and creative activities.

### **Monitoring the quality of Collective Worship**

In addition to the informal evaluations that take place every day, once or twice each term a member of the senior leadership team in partnership with a foundation governor will monitor the quality of Collective Worship using the monitoring sheet and checklist. (see Appendix 1)

# Appendix 1



## Collective Worship Monitoring Form

Person(s) leading Collective Worship	
Person (s) monitoring Collective Worship	
Date	
Theme/ Value	
Whole School/Year Groups	
Focus matched to SIMS Framework (see overleaf)	

<b>Gathering</b> Use of symbols – candles, cross etc. Is music played/sung as children enter?
<b>Engaging</b> Inviting participation, drama; reference to 'Values for Life' enjoyment of story being presented
<b>Responding</b> Pupil Participation – Singing/signing; praying/thinking/reflecting
<b>Sending</b> Was there a message for the pupils to take away with them?
<b>Positive Impact</b> Did pupils comment on the way out? Was there an opportunity afterwards to talk to pupils about the CW?
<b>Degree of involvement of students</b> Did pupils introduce or greet at the beginning, read, lead prayers, help with planning?
<b>Links/references to the school's distinctive Christian vision</b> Did the leader refer to the vision statement or Christian values?
<b>Other Comments</b>
<b>Points for Future Development</b>

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

## Monitoring linked to the SIAMS Framework

### Monitoring during Collective Worship in school or church

The school community needs to evaluate the extent to which worship:

- a) offers the opportunity, without compulsion, to all pupils and adults to grow spiritually through experiences of
    - prayer
    - stillness
    - worship
    - reflection
  - b) enables all pupils and adults to appreciate that Christians worship in different ways –
    - music
    - silence
    - story
    - prayer
    - reflection
    - liturgical and other traditions of Anglican/Methodist worship
    - festivals
    - the Eucharist (usually taught in RE)
  - c) helps pupils and adults to appreciate the relevance of faith in today's world –
    - to encounter the teachings of Jesus and the Bible
    - to develop their understanding of the Christian belief in the trinitarian nature of God (Father, Son and Holy Spirit) and its language
- d) enables pupils and adults to engage in the leading of collective worship. Monitoring other aspects of Collective Worship during Foundation Governor visits/ meetings

The school community needs to evaluate

- d) the extent to which
  - pupils and adults engage in planning and evaluation of collective worship
  - the extent to which leaders of worship, including clergy, have access to regular training
- e) the extent to which local church community partnerships are encouraged to support the school effectively in developing its provision for collective worship.