



NORTHLEAZE

C of E Primary School



DIOCESE OF
Bath & Wells

Living the story. Telling the story.

'Let your Light Shine' Matthew 5:16

**Northleaze Church of England Primary School
Collective Worship Policy 2025**

Written by	Headteacher
Date created	November 2025
Date of next review	November 2028
Signed – Chair of Governors	<i>Dan Charlill</i>
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Our Christian Values:

Responsibility, Creativity, Respect, Compassion, Resilience, Friendship

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Collective Worship Policy

This policy should be taken as part of the overall strategy of the school and implemented within the context of our vision, aims and values as a Church of England School.

Rationale:

At Northleaze Church of England Primary School, we see daily collective worship as a vital part of school life. It offers every child and adult a meaningful opportunity to engage with our school's vision and Christian values, helping them grow into compassionate, responsible, and fulfilled individuals who make a positive contribution to the world around them.

Collective worship enriches and supports all aspects of school life. It serves as a source of inspiration and celebration for our whole community, echoing the words of the Bath and Wells Diocese: *"a rich source of inspiration for the whole school, and a focus for all that is good and worthy of celebration."*

In line with the Education Reform Act (1988), our school's Trust Deed, and the guidance of the Diocesan Board of Education, collective worship is designed to nurture spiritual development and reflect the message of our vision:

"Let Your Light Shine" (Matthew 5:16).

We recognise and value the diverse experiences, beliefs, and backgrounds of our families, staff, and children. Our approach to collective worship is shaped by this understanding, ensuring it is **inspirational, invitational, and inclusive**.

Worship provides a space where all members of our school community can encounter Christian traditions in a way that is open and respectful. Participation is always by choice, allowing individuals to engage meaningfully or simply observe, according to their own beliefs and comfort. In this way, collective worship becomes a shared experience that nurtures spiritual growth and celebrates our school's vision and values.

Through Collective Worship, children will be invited to:

- Encounter the Christian story in a dedicated space for storytelling and reflection.
- Explore the meaning of worship by engaging in or observing prayer, Bible readings, and moments of quiet contemplation.
- Experience the richness of Christianity through its symbols, music, and traditions.
- Reflect on the beauty, joy, and challenges of the world around them.
- Take time for personal spiritual growth and thoughtful reflection.

Children are given time and space to reflect on their responsibilities to others and to explore our core Christian values: **responsibility, creativity, respect, compassion, resilience, and friendship**.

Collective worship also provides opportunities for celebration and for marking key moments in the calendar, including the **seasonal festivals of the Christian tradition** and those of **other faiths**, fostering a deeper understanding and respect for the diverse beliefs within our community.

Guiding Principles for Collective Worship

At Northleaze Church of England Primary School, Collective Worship is a central and valued part of daily school life. It is guided by the following principles and aims to:

- Be **inclusive**, welcoming all members of the school community regardless of faith or belief.
- Hold a **pivotal place** in the life of the school, shaping our shared values and sense of belonging.
- Support the **spiritual growth** of pupils and adults, offering space for reflection, stillness, and connection.
- Provide a **daily opportunity** to explore and live out our school's vision and Christian values.
- Celebrate and explore **other religions and belief systems**, promoting understanding and respect for diversity.
- Help children develop a meaningful **understanding of the Bible** and the stories central to the Christian faith.
- Offer an **authentic experience of worship**, reflecting the Christian belief in the presence, love, and peace of God. Worship is always **invitational**, allowing individuals to participate or observe freely, with respect for those of other faiths or none.
- **Involve pupils actively**, through participation in worship and leadership roles within the school's Collective Worship Team.
- Use carefully selected **themes and materials** to help children understand the work of Christians locally, nationally, and globally, and how this reflects the teachings of Jesus.
- Foster **connections with the local church and wider community**, enriching worship through shared experiences and real-life examples of faith in action.
- Encourage **pupil leadership and voice**, by involving children in planning, leading, and evaluating worship.
- Ensure worship is **regularly reviewed and evaluated**, to maintain its relevance, impact, and alignment with our school's vision.
- Create a **calm and respectful environment** that supports reflection, spiritual engagement, and a sense of sacredness.

Organisation of Collective Worship

At Northleaze Church of England Primary School, Collective Worship is a central part of our daily life. It offers space for reflection, celebration, and spiritual growth, rooted in our Christian vision: "Let Your Light Shine."

Structure of Worship

Collective Worship typically follows a four-part structure:

1. Gather

Collective Worship begins with a calm and respectful atmosphere. Quiet music may be played as children enter, helping to create a sense of peace and focus. A candle is lit to mark this as a sacred time, symbolising the presence of Jesus—the light of the world.

As the candle is lit by worship leaders, the **Candle Prayer** is said:

"We light this candle and remember Jesus, the light of the world. Shine your light through us all, today and always. Amen."

The worship leaders then greet the school community with the traditional liturgical welcome:

"Grace, mercy and peace be with you."

"And also with you."

2. Engage

This is the heart of Collective Worship—a time to explore a theme, story, or idea that encourages spiritual reflection and personal growth. Themes are often drawn from the Bible, the school's Christian values, or current events that connect meaningfully with children's lives.

During this time, children may:

- Hear a **Bible story** or parable that illustrates a key value such as compassion, resilience, or friendship.
- Reflect on a **real-life story** or current issue (e.g. through *Picture News*) that invites them to consider justice, kindness, or responsibility in the world today.
- Join in **discussion or questioning**, helping them to think deeply and make connections between faith, values, and everyday life.
- Engage with **visuals, drama, or role-play** to bring stories and themes to life in an age-appropriate and creative way.
- Sing a **hymn or worship song**, using music as a way to express joy, praise, and unity.

3. Respond

This part of Collective Worship offers a quiet and thoughtful space for children and adults to respond to what they have heard and experienced. It is a time for **prayer, reflection, and stillness**, allowing individuals to process the message of the worship in a personal and meaningful way. Responses may include:

- **Spoken prayers**, drawn from books, teacher resources, or written by children themselves, reflecting their understanding of the theme or value explored.
- Use of the **Lord's Prayer**, which is displayed in the school hall and may be said together as a community or quietly in personal reflection.
- **Silent reflection**, giving children time to think, wonder, or pray in their own way.
- **Creative responses**, such as writing, drawing, or symbolic actions, especially in class-based worship.
- Opportunities to reflect using the **spirituality model**:
 - **Windows** - encouraging children to look outwards consider how the theme relates to the lives of others
 - **Mirrors** – encouraging children to look inward and consider how the theme relates to their own lives.
 - **Doors** – inviting children to think about how they might act or respond, inspired by what they've learned.

This moment is always **invitational**, respecting the diverse beliefs within the school community. Children are encouraged to engage in a way that feels comfortable and authentic to them, whether through prayer, quiet thought, or simply being present.

4. Send

The final part of Collective Worship is a moment to bring everything together and prepare to carry the message of the worship into the rest of the day. It offers a sense of closure, encouragement, and purpose, helping children reflect on how they might live out the values and ideas explored.

This time may include:

- A simple message or reflection to reinforce the theme of the worship.
- A spoken farewell that encourages kindness, service, and thoughtfulness in the day ahead.
- A calm transition back into the school day, maintaining the peaceful and respectful tone of worship.

The worship leader(s) concludes with a traditional liturgical dismissal:

"Go in peace to love and serve the Lord."

"In the name of Christ, Amen."

This moment also reflects the 'door' in the spirituality model—inviting children to step out into the world with intention, inspired by what they've heard and experienced. As a final act, the candle is gently blown out, symbolising the end of the worship time while reminding us that the light of Jesus continues to shine in our hearts and actions throughout the day.

Collective Worship is enriched by the use of the spirituality model, which helps children engage with worship in a deeper and more personal way:

- **Windows** – offering new perspectives and experiences that help children look out at the world with curiosity and wonder.
- **Mirrors** – providing space for personal reflection, helping children look inward and consider their own thoughts, feelings, and beliefs.
- **Doors** – encouraging action and response, inviting children to step forward and make a difference in their lives and the lives of others.
- **Candle** – symbolising the presence of God and the light of Christ, creating a sacred atmosphere and reminding us of our school vision.

Weekly Pattern of Worship

Collective Worship takes place daily and lasts approximately **15–20 minutes**. The weekly schedule is as follows:

- **Monday** – Whole School Worship led by the Headteacher, a member of the Senior Leadership Team, or a local clergy member.
- **Tuesday** – **Class Worship** using *Picture News*, led by class teachers or pupil worship leaders.
- **Wednesday** – **Key Stage Worship** led by staff from each key stage.
- **Thursday** – **Singing Worship**, with opportunities for reflection and prayer through music.
- **Friday** – **Celebration Worship**, led by the Headteacher or a member of the Senior Leadership Team, celebrating achievements and living out our values.

Special Services and Church Visits

Throughout the year, we mark significant moments in the Christian calendar with services at All Saints Church, Long Ashton, often inviting families to join us. These include:

- Beginners' Service (Reception)
- Harvest
- Christmas
- Easter
- Leavers' Service

Individual classes also visit the church as part of the RE curriculum, deepening their understanding of Christian worship and tradition.

Planning, Preparation and Resources

Collective Worship at Northleaze is thoughtfully planned to ensure it is meaningful, inclusive, and rooted in our Christian vision and values. Planning takes into account the rhythm of the Christian calendar, our school's termly Christian value, PSHE themes, British values, and significant national or global events.

- Each term, a detailed Collective Worship plan is created and shared with staff and clergy. This plan links together key themes and dates, ensuring a coherent and purposeful approach to worship across the school.
- A 'Bible spine' of key stories is used to support class-based worship and build familiarity with foundational Christian narratives.
- Every class has access to the Lion Storyteller Bible, which is used regularly in Key Stage and class Collective Worship to support storytelling and engagement.
- Pupils are encouraged to write their own prayers, which are then used throughout the year in worship, giving children a voice in the spiritual life of the school.

Pupil Leadership in Collective Worship

At Northleaze, pupils are actively involved in shaping and leading Collective Worship in a variety of meaningful ways:

- Setting up the hall for worship, including arranging seating, preparing resources, and creating a calm environment.
- Lighting the candle and saying the *Candle Prayer* to mark the beginning of worship.
- Leading the call and response that opens worship, helping to set a respectful and reflective tone.
- Meeting with members of the Senior Leadership Team to help plan worship themes and contribute ideas, as well as giving feedback and pupil voice for monitoring purposes.
- Supporting younger children during worship, modelling respectful behaviour, and helping them engage.
- Leading Picture News sessions in other classes, with support from class teachers, encouraging discussion around current events and values.
- Writing and reading prayers for use in Collective Worship and for inclusion in the school newsletter.
- Taking part in the Collective Worship Team, helping to lead worship linked to the school's Christian value for the term.

Policy Context and Best Practice

This policy is informed by the legal requirements set out in the Education Reform Act (1988) and the School Standards and Framework Act (1998), which require a daily act of Collective Worship that is broadly Christian in character. It also reflects best practice guidance from the Church of England and the Diocese of Bath and Wells, which emphasise that worship in Church schools should be inclusive, invitational, and inspiring. Collective Worship at Northleaze is designed to support spiritual development, celebrate diversity, and reflect the school's Christian vision, while respecting the beliefs of all members of the school community. The policy also aligns with the expectations of the SIAMS inspection framework, which evaluates the impact of worship on the life and ethos of the school.

Equal Opportunities

In accordance with the Education Reform Act (1988), parents have the legal right to request that their child be withdrawn from Collective Worship. At Northleaze, we respect this right and aim to handle such requests with sensitivity and care. Parents wishing to withdraw their child are asked to submit their request in writing to the Headteacher. Once received, the school will make suitable alternative arrangements for the pupil during the time allocated for Collective Worship, ensuring their continued inclusion in the wider life of the school.

Monitoring and Evaluation

This policy will be reviewed every **three years** to ensure it remains relevant, inclusive, and reflective of current guidance and best practice.

Policy written: November 2025

Date of next review: November 2028

