

Christ Church C of E School

Collective Worship Policy

July 2026



Christ Church
CE Primary School
Regent's Park
NW1 4BD



Christ Church C of E Primary School Collective Worship Policy 2026



Christ Church is a special place with a unique sense of family and community, where we live according to Jesus' teachings. Christian values are at the heart of everything we do. Everyone is included. We care for the whole child and the extended school family spiritually, mentally and physically.

Executive Headteacher: Lee Duffy

Head of School: Amy Stroud

Vision and Values at Christ Church

"For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." Ephesians 2:10. The Christian Faith is at the heart of our school community. At Christ Church we care for each other and learn together.

Christ Church is a small, caring school which is committed to a broad, balanced curriculum and to a continual raising of standards. We aim to contribute to the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical needs of every individual.

We are a Church of England school with a strong commitment to the teaching of Christianity, whilst also supporting a multi-faith approach to the curriculum. We recognise, value and celebrate the rich cultural diversity that exists in our school.

Our vision and ethos build on this:

The Christian ethos of the school is reflected in our positive, disciplined and calm atmosphere. We believe that effective learning takes place when children work in a purposeful and stimulating environment that supports a wide range of learning styles. Mutual respect between adults and children promotes excellent behaviour and well-developed social skills. With this approach we seek to achieve high academic standards.

We aim to cater for each individual, taking particular account of any specific needs or abilities. We endeavour to ensure that all our children fulfil their potential and, within this context, we emphasise health and safety, enjoyment and achievement and the beginnings of responsibility for themselves and others. These skills will be carried forward to the next phase of education and throughout life.

The whole school community is committed to a collective responsibility for the implementation of the values inherent in this statement.

The school aims to provide a positive, disciplined and purposeful environment within a Christian context. We aim to teach children to be caring, to exhibit good behaviour and appropriate social skills and to begin to take responsibility for themselves and others.

The school aims to value every child and to contribute to the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical well-being of our whole school community. We value the diversity of our community and we aim to promote the health and safety of everyone.

The school aims to teach a balanced curriculum and to ensure that each child fulfils his or her potential. We aim to provide teaching and learning of a high standard. We believe that this is achieved when pupils are highly motivated, enjoy coming to school and are

Introduction

Christ Church CoE Primary School regards the daily act of collective worship as central to its foundation status as a church school. It is an integral and important part of school life. Through collective worship and in the general ethos of the school we seek to promote our school motto:

Collective Worship aims to...

- Foster feelings of awe, wonder, thankfulness, wonder and joy.
- Help children discover their place in the world.
- Provide an opportunity for the children to reflect upon God and to give Him honour and praise. • Establish, explore and reinforce the Christian values of Christ Church School.
- Foster a feeling of community and belonging in the school through a sharing of experiences and feelings.
- Provide children with a vocabulary of worship and an experience of a wide variety of worship forms, including symbols and imagery.
- Provide an opportunity to celebrate Christian festivals.
- Heighten awareness of the ultimate questions / realities of life and to provide an opportunity to reflect upon these whilst supporting the search for meaning.
- Enable pupils to make effective use of silence in opportunities for reflection, contemplation and prayer.
- Celebrate gifts, talents and achievements and enjoy celebrations.
- Provide an opportunity to empathise with the needs of others and to provide an opportunity to bring personal needs and those of others before God in prayer.
- Provide an opportunity for children to become acquainted with people from the local and wider community, particularly Christ Church.
- Encourage respect and care for God's creation by a positive attitude to both local and global environmental issues.

The following principles are considered when arranging acts of collective worship:

1. Collective worship should aim to provide an opportunity for staff, pupils and visitors to worship God.
2. Acts of collective worship should be at a time of day set aside for a unique occasion which celebrates the beliefs and backgrounds of individual members.
3. An act of collective worship should acknowledge and value the response of each pupil. It should be a time to share thoughts and ideas.
4. Acts of worship should provide opportunities for pupils to express feelings of delight, joy, sorrow and to rejoice in the good.
5. An act of worship should be designed to encourage reflection.
6. An act of worship should be a daily reinforcement of the feeling of community - one body of people with different views valuing each other as individuals.
7. An act of worship is an interactive process between the child, worship leader and that which we call God.
8. Some acts of worship should make the children look beyond the immediate environment of the school and reinforce their place in the wider community.
9. Acts of worship should introduce pupils to various aspects of religious worship in an open and honest atmosphere (e.g. poetry, drama, music, art).
10. Acts of worship should encourage pupils to have confidence in their own traditions and to value the traditions of others.
11. Collective worship is something that is not bound by the constraints of time and place: the effects of worship permeate through the life of the school.

Anglican Faith and Practice

We seek to provide acts of Collective Worship that reflect the faith and practice of the Church of England.

- We use the Bible as a sourcebook for inspiration and learning and make pupils familiar with the Lord's Prayer, psalms and other verses of scripture.
- We use aspects of Anglican liturgy to create a framework for worship.
- We use Christian symbols as a focus for reflection.
- We observe the cycle of the Anglican year including celebration of the major Christian festivals.
 - We provide a focal point for the act of worship – a cross, a candle, a prayer and the liturgical colour is evident on the worship table.
- A wide variety of resources are used to encourage discussion and reflection: music, movement, poetry, pictures, videos, photographs, stories, children's work, role play, drama, natural objects, artefacts, candles and incense.
- We use greetings, prayer and blessings from the Church of England website and its link to Worship Workshop.
- We foster links with St Mary Magdalene's Church, involving the Vicar Sally Jones, in collective worship and providing coherence between worship in church and worship in school.

Organisation of Collective Worship

We aim to provide a variety of worship experience. Our current schedule is as follows:

Monday	Whole School Worship led by the Head teacher. Children share in leading prayers.
Tuesday	Whole School Worship led by Crossteach. Children share in leading worship through acting and reading.
Wednesday	Whole School Worship led by the executive Headteacher. Children share in leading worship through singing. Occasionally, a member of staff will lead worship including children in leading prayers, reading etc.
Thursday	Whole School Worship led by Vicar Sally Jones. Children share in leading worship through acting and reading.
Friday	Whole school Celebration Worship. We celebrate and value our children's learning and personal achievements each week, including awarding a Spirituality Award for children who demonstrate empathy, compassion, kindness and notices the 'ows' and 'wows' around us and in the world.

In addition to this, visiting groups and individuals are welcomed into school to lead worship, share their experiences and knowledge – their role is to educate not evangelise. Governors are also welcome to attend acts of worship at any time. Worship commences with the children entering the hall accompanied by a piece of music. The music chosen reflects a wide variety of cultures. The candle on the worship table is lit as the opening prayer is being said by a child and this signifies that the act of Collective Worship has begun. Children are often invited to lead worship through reading, drama, selecting and leading prayers. At the end of Collective Worship, the candle is blown out and this signifies the end of worship. Notices can then be given out.

Planning, Recording and Evaluating Collective Worship

Acts of Collective Worship at Christ Church C of E Primary School are planned around the rolling programme of Christian Values, church festivals, key dates, current events or key events in the life of the children and school. We also try to make links, wherever possible, with themes taught as part of the Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education. A record is kept of all acts of worship record details the theme / content, prayer, reflection, hymn, music and leader for each act of collective worship (PPTs).

Staff and pupils evaluate the effectiveness of collective worship. These celebrate the breadth of work that is happening in school.

Prayer and Reflection

Collective worship always includes a time of prayer and reflection. A range of prayers are used, including the Lord's Prayer, school prayer, prayers written by the children and prayers from the Church of England website.

Grace is led by the children or staff at the beginning of lunch time.

Each class begins and ends the school day with prayers led by the teacher or the children (TSP-Thank you, Sorry, Please).

Each classroom has a cross and prayer area as a focal point for class and individual prayers.

Contribution to Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development

We recognise that although SMSC development should be fostered across the whole curriculum, acts of Collective Worship provide a multitude of opportunities in this area. Children will be encouraged to reflect on and celebrate the deeper meanings of life, consider their own behaviour and recognise the need for forgiveness, appreciate the contributions of others and respond to their needs, value their own culture and the culture of others.

Inclusion

We are committed to equality of opportunity regardless of race, gender, cultural background, ability or any physical or sensory disability. We therefore aim to make Collective Worship accessible to all. As when teachers prepare lessons, worship leaders take into account different learning styles and aim to present materials using multi—sensory approaches.

Legal Requirements

We acknowledge the legal requirement stated in the 1988 Education Reform Act which states the need for each child to attend a daily act of worship either as a whole school, class or group. Parents have the legal right to withdraw their children from the act of worship either partially or wholly. Any parents wishing to do so should contact the Head of School.

Responsibilities

Responsibility for the arrangement of Collective Worship in a voluntary controlled school rests with the Governors in consultation with the Head teacher. Foundation governors have a particular responsibility because they are appointed for “the purpose of securing, as far as practicable, that the character of the school as a voluntary school is preserved and developed, and, in particular, that the worship is conducted in accordance with provisions of any trust deed relating thereto.” The Head teacher has a responsibility to ensure that all arrangements for Collective Worship are secured.

Updated: July 2026

Review Date: July 2028