



COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

October 2025

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Author:	School Chaplain
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As a Church of England school, worship is central to the life of The Deanery. Our community is built on the values of **Faith, Hope, Love, Wisdom, Courage and Integrity**, which shape both our worship and our daily life together.

This is implemented in line with the our school vision:

As a Church of England school, we aim to provide an **education for life**, enabling all of our school community to flourish and live life to the full.

"I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full." (John 10:10)

Collective Worship provides opportunities for pupils and staff to gather, reflect, and encounter the Christian faith. It is inclusive, invitational, and inspiring, enabling all to explore spiritual and moral questions in a safe and meaningful way.

1 Aims of Collective Worship

Through worship we aim to:

- a. Deepen understanding of the Christian faith and Anglican tradition
- b. Provide space for prayer, stillness and reflection
- c. Celebrate the life of the school and the wider community
- d. Explore spiritual, moral, and ethical issues
- e. Encourage pupil leadership in planning and leading worship
- f. Inspire pupils to live out our school values and become courageous advocates for others

2 Nature and Structure of Worship

2.1 Worship at The Deanery is:

- a. Inclusive – accessible to all, respecting diverse backgrounds
- b. Invitational – offering opportunities to participate, with no compulsion
- c. Inspiring – encouraging reflection, action, and transformation

2.2 Acts of worship normally follow the four-part structure recommended by the Church of England and diocesan guidance:

- a. Gathering – a welcome, greeting, or focus (e.g. scripture, liturgical phrase, or music)
- b. Engaging – introduction of the theme, often through scripture, story or contemporary example
- c. Responding – reflection, prayer, or interactive response
- d. Sending – blessing, prayer, or challenge for the day or week ahead

2.3 Worship is planned to connect with school values, curriculum topics, and wider events (e.g., charity initiatives, national observances, or cultural celebrations).

3 Forms of Worship

- a. Year Group Worship – held regularly in the hall and led by SLT, the Chaplain, student leaders, or visiting speakers
- b. Form Worship – takes place once a week, supported by Worship Ambassadors and resources provided by the Chaplain
- c. Daily Prayer – each school day begins with prayer
- d. School Holy Communion – normally celebrated at the end of each term and on major festivals. Weekly Holy Communion also takes place in the chapel and is open to all
- e. Staff Worship – weekly Holy Communion, along with opportunities for shared prayer and a 'Thought for the Week' provided by the Chaplain
- f. Occasional Services – special services such as Remembrance, Advent, Lent, or other significant Christian festivals and commemorations
- g. Pop-up Prayer Spaces – temporary prayer or reflection areas set up for pupils to engage with worship and spiritual reflection in a flexible and interactive way

Note: Collective Worship is distinct from assemblies, which focus on operational matters. However, assemblies will always include a Christian welcome and prayer

4 Roles and Responsibilities

- a. Form Tutors – lead daily prayer and facilitate weekly form worship
- b. Worship Ambassadors – support and lead worship within their form; contribute to planning and evaluation
- c. Chaplain – provides resources, training, pastoral support, and produces the Collective Worship planner, which includes the rota and themes for acts of worship
- d. SLT – ensure effective delivery, consistency, and timetabling of worship across the school.
- e. Governors – Christian Ethos Governors monitor and evaluate worship in consultation with the Chaplain and SLT, providing oversight and recommendations for development

5 Staff Training and Support:

- a. Staff leading worship receive guidance and training from the Chaplain
- b. Worship Ambassadors are supported by the Chaplain, Form Tutors and Prefects

6 Monitoring

6.1 Collective Worship is regularly reviewed to ensure it:

- a. Reflects the school's vision, mission, and values
- b. Engages pupils in meaningful, relevant ways
- c. Meets the requirements of SIAMS and national legislation

6.2 Monitoring methods include:

- a. Observations and peer review of worship sessions
- b. Pupil and staff surveys or focus groups
- c. Feedback from governors and the Christian Ethos Team

6.3 Reviews take place termly, and outcomes inform future planning and resources.

7 Legal Framework and Right of Withdrawal

7.1 The Education Reform Act (1988) requires all pupils to take part in a daily act of Collective Worship.

7.2 As a Church of England school, worship reflects Anglican tradition while being fully accessible to all.

7.3 We recognise that parents have the legal right to request withdrawal of their child from Collective Worship. However, by choosing a Church of England school, parents have made a positive decision for their child to be educated within a community where Christian worship and values are central to school life. We therefore strongly encourage all pupils to attend and take part in worship as an important expression of our shared identity and ethos.

7.4 Should parents wish to exercise the right of withdrawal, they are asked to meet with the Headteacher to discuss the request. The school will provide supervision during worship, but no alternative curriculum will be offered.