Collective Worship

Approved by:	Standards Committee	**Date:** 08/07/2026
Last reviewed:	June 2026	
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Grampound Road Church of England School

Last Updated September 2026

In our school our Christian vision shapes all we do;

'Together with love we can inspire, discover and thrive.'

'Collective Worship in a Church school should enable every child and adult to flourish and to live life in all its fullness. (John 10:10). It will help educate for wisdom, knowledge and skills, hope and aspiration, dignity and respect, and developing community and understanding of living well together.

Policy Statement

In Grampound Road Church of England School worship is central to the life of school and is the main platform for exploring the school's vision. It is well planned and of high quality so that the whole school community is engaged on a journey of discovery, exploring the teachings of Jesus and the Bible.

For Christians in Church, worship is about honouring God and responding to the loving nature of God as revealed through the Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. A school is not a Church but is a collection of people who come from a variety of backgrounds for the purpose of education. The family backgrounds may be very different and collective worship must take account of the varied circumstances of staff and pupils.

At Grampound Road Church of England School collective worship aims to be inspirational, invitational and inclusive and will lead people to a threshold where they can witness worship and join in, if they wish.

Through Collective Worship pupils will be offered a space and a place for the telling of the Christian story. They will be offered an understanding of worship through being invited to participate in or observe prayer, reading and reflection on the Bible, liturgy, sacrament and experience of the musical and other imaginative riches of Christianity. Opportunities to reflect on the beauty, joy and pain of the world will be given. Pupils will be given time to consider their responsibilities to others and to grow in love and service. Time will be given for celebration, both for the accomplishments of school members and to mark the seasonal festivals of the Christian (*and other faiths*[1]) calendar. Pupils will be offered time to be able to contemplate and develop spiritually.[2]

[1] Collective Worship in a CofE school must be in alignment with the religious foundation of the school (Christian), however there is a responsibility for schools in all contexts to mark, respond and learn from the festivals of other faiths. This may be designated as a separate act, not to be conflated with collective worship.

[2] "To worship is to quicken the conscience by the holiness of God, to feed the mind with the truth of God, to purge the imagination by the beauty of God, to open the heart to the love of God and to devote the will to the purpose of God". William Temple (1881-1894)

Church of England Guidance

Collective worship policy at Grampound Road Church of England School draws on guidance from the Church of England [3]. This guidance document has been produced to challenge, to guide and set expectations for Church school communities and diocesan authorities, encouraging them to reflect on their practice and to ensure that collective worship remains the relevant and essential component of an education that enables all pupils to flourish.

Legal Requirements

There must be a daily act of collective worship in all maintained schools for all pupils, other than those in a nursery class or a nursery school. This can take place at anytime in the school day and in any groupings. Collective worship in a Church of England School must be in accordance with the tenets and practices of the Church of England. In other words the law on collective worship that applies in a community school, "that it should be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character", is not relevant. Worship in Grampound Road Church of England School draws Academy should be distinctly Christian and reflect Anglican traditions.

The trustees of the school have the responsibility for ensuring that the school meets the requirements for worship detailed in the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Evaluation Document. They are also tasked with monitoring and evaluating the impact of worship on the school community in consultation with the headteacher.

The right of withdrawal

In Grampound Road Church of England School there are significant numbers of children whose families are members of another faith, or who hold a non- religious world view. Part of the distinctively Christian nature of Church of England Schools is that they should be as hospitable and inclusive to all in the community they serve. As collective worship occupies such a central place in the life of the Church school, this should be made clear on induction, and it is hoped that parents will be making a specific choice of the school knowing that the distinctive ethos will determine a Christian tradition within collective worship.

The 1944 and1988 Education Acts state that parents have the right to withdraw children from collective worship and suitable arrangements should be made to accommodate these children.

[3] https://www.churchofengland.org/about/education-and-schools/church-schools-and-academies/collective-worship

On occasions, a parent may make a request for their child to be withdrawn from Collective Worship. There is an expectation that parents wishing to request a withdrawal will meet with the headteacher to discuss their concerns and requirements. It may be helpful to establish:

- The elements of worship in which the parent would object to the child taking part
- The other aspects of school life that are impacted by the Christian foundation of the school such as prayer and reflective areas
- The practical implications of withdrawal
- Whether the parent will require any advanced notice of such worship, and if so, how much

Where parents have withdrawn their children from collective worship and request religious worship according to their particular faith or denomination, the governors and head teacher will seek to respond positively to such requests providing:

- Such arrangements can be made at no additional cost to the school
- That the alternative provision would be consistent with the overall purposes of the school curriculum as set out in the Education Acts

If the Parent asks that a pupil should be wholly or partly excused from attending any religious worship at the school, then the school must comply.

(*This means that a parent may, for example, request their child does not take part in a carol service when otherwise the child takes part in daily collective worship.)*

Guiding Principles

Collective worship in Grampound Road Church of England School aims to:

- Have a pivotal place in the life of the school.
- Support pupils and adults in their spiritual growth
- Be the central vehicle by which the school's vision is unpacked and explored so that the whole school community is challenged and engaged with the teachings of Jesus and the Bible.
- Provide an experience of worship that will offer opportunities for those present to observe and/or respond to the presence, power and peace of God as understood by Christians. This will always be invitational, offering an opportunity to take part whilst allowing the freedom for those of other faiths and none to be present with integrity.
- Support pupils in the development of their understanding of the Trinitarian nature of God in Christian belief
- Provide a variety of different opportunities for reflection, understanding of diverse liturgical traditions, participation, challenge and enjoyment where all present can be

actively involved and develop their own spirituality whilst contributing to the communal journey.

- Help children to become familiar with Christian language and symbolism and the cycle of the Church year so that they are offered a pattern of meanings and a framework into which they can begin to integrate experience.
- Explore a variety of ways of praying, giving children the opportunity to form their own prayers using multi-sensory foci and introduce them to some well know Christian prayers, as well as a variety of prayers of thanksgiving before mealtimes and home time.
- Offer opportunities to all children and staff to develop their skills in planning, leading and evaluating the impact of school worship with the support and shared engagement of the local church community. Pupils will be at the centre of this process taking on increasingly independent roles in planning and leading worship.
- Ensure that materials and themes for worship are carefully selected to make sure pupils understand the work of Christians and the church locally, nationally and globally and how this reflects the teachings of the Bible and the example of Jesus.

Development of the policy and links to other policies and documentation

We ensure that the principles for collective worship are reflected and applied in our policies and practice including those that are concerned with:

- Pupils' personal development and wellbeing
- SMSC and PSHE
- Staff recruitment, retention and professional development
- Care, guidance and support
- Behaviour, discipline and exclusions
- Working in partnership with parents, carers and guardians
- Working with the wider community

We also ensure that information about collective worship is included on the school website.

How Collective worship is organised

The organisation of Collective Worship for each week:
Monday-Sarah Edwards (teacher) Singing collective worship
Tuesday-Headteacher's collective worship
Wednesday-Jo Pins (teacher) topical
Thursday-Beth Vincent (teacher) celebration with parents and carers
Friday- Sophie Eastham (teacher) Roots-Christian values based CW
Reverend Caroline will a

Leadership

Collective Worship is led by a range of members of the school community. The Headteacher and teaching staff lead daily acts of worship, often supported by a small group of pupils who help with readings, prayers, reflections and the organisation of worship. This enables children to take an active role in planning and leading worship and supports the development of pupil leadership.

We work closely with our local church and value the contribution of clergy to our worship programme. Reverend Caroline leads worship every fortnight, helping pupils to deepen their understanding of the Christian faith and strengthen links between the school and church communities.

Support for Visitors Leading Worship

Visitors are welcomed and supported to lead Collective Worship. Visitors are provided with the school's Collective Worship overview and presentation materials each half term. This ensures that worship led by visitors reflects the school's Christian vision, values and current themes, while maintaining a consistent and coherent approach across the school.

Planning

How worship is planned and who is involved in the planning

The Headteacher is responsible for producing the annual and half-termly Collective Worship overview, ensuring that worship themes reflect the school's Christian vision, values and the Church calendar. Teachers then use this overview to plan and deliver their own acts of worship, adapting content to meet the needs and interests of their classes. Worship planning is regularly reviewed to ensure it remains relevant, engaging and meaningful for all pupils.

How all members of the school community, especially children, are equipped to plan and lead acts of worship

Pupils play an active role in leading Collective Worship. Children regularly take responsibility for leading elements of worship, including welcoming the school community, reading Bible passages, leading prayers, sharing reflections and helping to prepare worship spaces. Opportunities to lead worship are rotated so that all children can develop confidence and leadership skills.

How worship reflects the cycle of the Church year

Collective Worship is carefully planned to reflect the cycle of the Christian year. Key Christian festivals and seasons, including Harvest, Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter, Ascension

and Pentecost, are explored through worship. This enables pupils to develop an understanding of the Christian faith and the significance of these celebrations.

How the Christian values of the school are identified, expressed and celebrated through collective worship

Collective Worship provides a central opportunity to explore and celebrate our school's Christian values. Worship themes are linked to these values, enabling children to understand how they can be lived out in everyday life. Pupils who demonstrate the school's values are recognised and celebrated through collective worship, and Christian values are reinforced through discussions, prayer and reflection.

How explicit links are made between Bible stories and the Christian values of the school

Bible stories are used regularly to illustrate and deepen understanding of the school's Christian values. For example, the Parable of the Good Samaritan helps children explore compassion, kindness and service to others. Other stories from the Old and New Testaments are carefully selected to demonstrate values such as courage, forgiveness, respect, friendship and responsibility.

How a pattern for worship is used which reflects Anglican tradition

Collective Worship follows a recognisable Anglican structure which may include a gathering, a period of reflection, engagement with scripture, prayer and a sending out. Christian symbols, responses, liturgical greetings and traditional prayers are used appropriately to develop pupils' understanding of Anglican worship whilst ensuring worship remains inclusive and invitational.

A wide range of resources is used to enrich Collective Worship, including:

Roots and Fruits Collective Worship materials

The Bible and Bible story books

Christian artefacts and symbols

Music, hymns and worship songs

Artwork and photographs

Drama, storytelling and role play

Video clips and online resources

Prayer stations and reflection activities

Visual focal points such as candles, crosses and displays linked to worship themes

How opportunities are provided for children and adults to explore faith in today's world

Collective Worship encourages pupils and adults to explore how Christian faith influences life today. Current events, local community issues, global concerns and examples of Christian service are used to help pupils make connections between biblical teachings and modern life. Visitors from the church and wider community also provide opportunities for discussion and reflection on faith in action.

How the Christian belief in the Trinitarian nature of God is explored

Through worship, pupils are introduced to the Christian understanding of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. References to the Trinity are woven throughout prayers, Bible teaching, liturgical responses and Christian festivals, helping children develop an age-appropriate understanding of this central Christian belief.

How spiritual growth through prayer, stillness and reflection is nurtured

Opportunities for prayer, stillness and reflection are embedded within every act of Collective Worship. Children are encouraged to reflect on worship themes, consider their own beliefs and experiences, and explore questions about themselves, others and the world around them. Prayer is offered in a variety of forms, and children are invited to participate in ways that are comfortable and meaningful for them. Times of silence and reflection help foster spiritual development and support pupils' wellbeing and sense of belonging.

Organisation

All Collective Worship takes place as a whole school community. Gathering together each morning strengthens our sense of belonging and provides a consistent opportunity to reflect on our Christian vision and values.

Collective Worship is held in the school hall each day at 9:00am and lasts for approximately 15 minutes. Beginning the day with worship helps to create a calm, purposeful atmosphere and prepares children for learning and living well together.

The hall is arranged to create a welcoming and reflective environment for worship. Children enter respectfully and are often welcomed by music. A focal area is displayed at the front of the hall, including the Collective Worship candle, a cross and displays linked to the current

worship theme. The liturgical colours of the Church year are used where appropriate to help children develop an understanding of the Christian calendar and Anglican traditions.

Children are seated together as a school community, allowing everyone to share in worship, celebration, prayer and reflection. Opportunities are provided for pupils to participate through readings, prayers, drama, discussion and leadership roles.

Collective Worship includes gathering, reflection on scripture or a Christian theme, prayer and a sending out, following a pattern that reflects Anglican tradition while remaining invitational and inclusive for all members of our school community. Opportunities for stillness, reflection and prayer are woven throughout worship to support the spiritual development of both children and adults

Roles and Responsibilities

The Headteacher and Senior Leadership Team

The Headteacher has overall responsibility for the strategic leadership and quality of Collective Worship. The Headteacher plans the annual and half-termly worship overview, ensuring that worship reflects the school's Christian vision, values and the Church calendar. Leaders support the monitoring, evaluation and development of Collective Worship and ensure opportunities are provided for pupils and staff to participate and lead.

Clergy and Church Partners

Clergy and church partners play an important role in enriching the worship life of the school. Reverend Caroline leads Collective Worship fortnightly and supports the development of pupils' understanding of Christian faith and Anglican traditions. Church partners also contribute to special services, celebrations and key Christian festivals, strengthening the relationship between school, church and community.

Teaching and Support Staff

Teaching and support staff are responsible for modelling Christian values and actively participating in Collective Worship. Teachers plan and deliver worship using the school's agreed overview and themes, providing opportunities for children to engage in prayer, reflection and discussion. Staff encourage pupil participation and support children in developing confidence as worship leaders.

Pupils

Pupils are active participants in Collective Worship and are encouraged to contribute through readings, prayers, reflections, drama and leadership roles. Opportunities to lead worship are rotated across the school to ensure that all children can develop confidence, responsibility and an understanding of worship. Pupils are encouraged to reflect on worship themes and consider how these relate to their own lives and the school's Christian values.

Parents and Carers

Parents and carers are valued partners in supporting the Christian ethos of the school. They are encouraged to engage with the school's vision and values and to support discussions arising from Collective Worship at home. Parents have the legal right to withdraw their child from Collective Worship and are invited to discuss any concerns with the Headteacher before making such a decision.

Visitors

Visitors contribute to the richness of Collective Worship by sharing their experiences, faith and expertise. All visitors are provided with guidance, the school's worship overview and relevant resources to ensure that their contributions support the school's Christian vision, values and worship themes. Visitors are expected to uphold the inclusive, invitational and inspirational nature of Collective Worship within the school.

Staff development and training

We ensure that all staff, including support staff, receive appropriate training and opportunities for professional development, both as individuals and as groups or teams. This includes accessing training offered through the Diocese and through the Flourishing Schools Programme.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The Headteacher and RE Leader are responsible for monitoring and evaluating the quality and impact of Collective Worship across the school.

Monitoring takes place through:

- Regular observation of Collective Worship.

- Discussions with pupils about their experiences of worship and their understanding of the school's Christian values.
- Review of worship planning and resources.
- Informal feedback from staff, pupils, governors and church partners.

The Headteacher and RE Leader work together to evaluate whether Collective Worship remains inclusive, invitational and inspirational, and whether it supports the spiritual development of pupils and staff.

Monitoring has led to the continual development of worship through:

- Increased opportunities for pupil leadership.
- Greater links between worship, Christian values and the curriculum.
- The use of a wider range of worship resources and reflection activities.
- Strengthened partnerships with the local church and clergy.

Findings from monitoring are used to inform future planning and ensure that Collective Worship continues to reflect the school's Christian vision and supports all members of the school community to flourish.

Disseminating the policy

We ensure that this policy is known to all staff and ambassadors, parents and carers and, as appropriate, to all pupils. This policy is available on our school website.

Date of last review: September 2026

Headteacher signed: S.Kennedy Date: 05/10/2026