



# Collective Worship Policy

*Let your roots grow down into him, and let your lives be built on him.*

Colossians 2:7

DATE	REVIEW DATE	COORDINATOR	NOMINATED GOVERNOR(s)
July 2025	July 2028	Emma Gilbert	Foundation Governors

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## Introduction

This policy is an agreed statement of the values and aims of collective worship at Baydon St Nicholas CE VA Primary School.

Collective worship is valued as a central aspect of the life of our church school, through which children grow spiritually, emotionally, morally and culturally.

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## Legal status of collective worship

There must be a daily act of collective worship in all maintained schools for all children, other than those in a nursery class or a nursery school. This can take place at any time 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. Collective worship in our school is distinctly Christian and reflects Anglican traditions.

The governing body of this school have the responsibility for ensuring that the school meets the requirements for collective 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 collective worship on the school community in consultation with the headteacher.

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## School Vision

In our school our Christian vision shapes all we do.

***Roots to Grow, Wings to Fly***

Baydon St Nicholas CE VA Primary School provides a Christian environment which stimulates a passion for life-long learning and nurtures happy, confident and resilient children. Our vision is rooted in Christian faith and inspired by the words of Jesus in the Parable of the Mustard Seed:



*“The Kingdom of Heaven is like a mustard seed... though it is the smallest of all seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds come and perch in its branches.”*

**(Matthew 13:31–32)**

This powerful image reminds us that even the smallest beginnings—whether in faith, curiosity, or kindness—can grow into something life-giving and strong when nurtured in the right environment.

### **Roots to Grow**

At Baydon St Nicholas, we are committed to helping every child put down strong roots. Through a loving and inclusive Christian community, we provide the care, encouragement, and learning environment each child needs to thrive. Our values of **respect, kindness, and perseverance** form the rich soil in which children can grow in knowledge, character, and faith.

### **Wings to Fly**

With deep roots in place, our children are empowered to take flight and become confident, compassionate, and curious. We encourage them to explore their unique gifts with a strong sense of identity and purpose. Just like the mustard tree that provides shelter and rest, our vision is that every child will grow to be a blessing to others, offering support, inspiration, and hope.

At Baydon St Nicholas, we don't just prepare children for the next stage—we help them grow into who they are called to be.

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## **Policy Statement**

Collective worship at our school is central to the life of school and is the main platform for exploring our 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. Collective worship in our Church school aims to 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.

For many 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. We recognise that our school is not a church, rather it is a collection of people who come from a variety of backgrounds for the purpose of education. The family backgrounds of families, visitors and staff may vary and therefore collective worship is planned to take account of the differing circumstances of those present.

We strive for collective worship to be inspirational, invitational and inclusive and based upon Christian teaching and values. It aims to give opportunities for all present to grow spiritually, whatever their personal philosophy, or whether or not they come from a faith background. Through collective worship children will be offered a space and a place for the telling of the Christian story. This will include being invited to participate in prayer, reading and reflection from the Bible 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 Christian values such as 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 world faiths) calendar. All present will be offered time to be able to contemplate and develop spirituality.

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## Guiding Principles

Collective worship has a pivotal place in the life of Baydon St Nicholas CE VA Primary School.

It aims to:

- 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.
- Discover and celebrate key moments of the Christian calendar, and to enjoy and celebrate special moments of the lives of our school communities
- Provide an experience that will offer opportunities for those present to grow spiritually as well as to observe and respond to the presence, power and peace of God as understood by Christians, or to find their own spiritual path. This will always be invitational, offering an opportunity to take part whilst allowing the freedom for those of different faiths and none to be present and to engage with integrity. It aims to give children and young people the opportunity to develop their own philosophy and moral compass.
- provide time and opportunity for thanksgiving and to enjoy the unity which derives from sharing friendship, acceptance, joys, hopes and fears
- Support those present in the development of their understanding of the Trinitarian nature of God in Christian belief.
- Help all present to appreciate that Christians worship in different ways, for example using music, silence, story, prayer and reflection
- To help children and young people become familiar with Christian language and symbolism and the cycle of the Christian Church's year so that they are offered a pattern of meanings and a framework into which they can begin to integrate experience.
- To appreciate that people, cultures and beliefs differ and to demonstrate respect, tolerance and generosity towards them
- To develop pupils' sense of self-worth and to provide opportunities to celebrate achievements.
- To develop a caring attitude to others and a sense of community and loyalty.
- To invite clergy of the parish, other lay members of the parish and other Christian leaders in the community to lead collective worship and build the parish-school link.

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## The right of withdrawal

We recognise that in our school there are children whose families are members of another faith, or who hold a non-religious worldview. Part of the distinctively Christian nature of Church of England Schools is that we aim to be as hospitable and inclusive to all in the community we serve. As collective worship occupies such a central place in the life of our Church school, 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.

By withdrawing from collective worship, it does not mean that children will be exempt from the Christian ethos of our setting, as this underpins our teaching, learning and relationships.

The 1944 and 1988 Education Acts state that parents have a legal right to withdraw their child from acts of worship. If a parent wishes to make a request for their child to be withdrawn from collective worship, we ask that they meet with the headteacher to discuss their concerns and requirements.

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## 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
- Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Education (SMSC) and Personal, Social and
- Health Education (PSHE)
- Developing Spirituality Policy
- Staff recruitment, retention and professional development
- Care, guidance and support
- Positive 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.

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## How collective worship is organised

Worship is held every day and lasts approximately twenty minutes. Every week we hold four whole school acts of worship, emphasising the unity of the school, and one class based act of worship led by class teachers and tailored more to the specific needs of different age groups.

Our local Church of England vicar leads one of the weekly acts of worship and others are led by the head teacher or other members of staff. Children are also encouraged to be part of the worship or may contribute with readings or prayers.

At the front of our worship there is a wooden cross as a focal point and candles are lit to represent the Trinity at the start of each worship with a response.

Music is played as children enter and leave the hall to encourage an atmosphere of reflection or to invoke a shared feeling. This is led by Year 6 pupils in choice.

Similarly, in Class Worship the teacher designates a focal point with a small wooden cross and candles as appropriate to the age and needs of the pupils.

The Lord's Prayer is recited regularly, along with our school prayer.

A wide range of approaches are used in worship, including drama, discussion, reflection, reading, singing and prayer.

At the end of every worship a poem is shared with the school for the day.

The worship at the end of each week is a celebration worship of our pupils. Special emphasis is given to school values as well as achievements.

Pupils also attend services in Church each year: Christmas, Harvest Festival, Easter and at the end of the school year there is a special service for Year 6 pupils and their families. Services are led by pupils with support of staff with a contribution from the local clergy.

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## Themes

We have three core Christian values originating from the Bible which form the basis of our worship and wider school life.

- Respect
- Kindness
- Perseverance

In addition to these values wider Christian values are timetabled in conjunction with the clergy, the Share the Story team and the schools within the Whitton Benefice. These are taught as the Collective Worship themes over the year. Each value is explored for a term and worship are planned around this value, as well as being promoted throughout the school. Care is taken to ensure that understanding of each value is rooted in the Bible and the example of Jesus.

We also include significant dates in the Christian year and days of particular importance such as Remembrance Day or Christingle. We are also able to respond to local, national or world events (or a need from the children), that merit reflection and prayers.

A range of resources are available to all staff, including the Church of England 'Values for Life' packs and 'Roots and Fruits'.

Classes all have a special reflection area that includes age appropriate Bibles and prayer books as well as a small wooden cross, candle and other helpful resources and artefacts.

We have a values display in the hall which shows the journey children take throughout a term.

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## The Collective Worship Co-ordinator

The co-ordinator is responsible for supporting staff in their planning of worship where necessary. The co-ordinator is also responsible for organising and replenishing resources

and for monitoring all aspects of worship within the school.

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### 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.

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### Monitoring and evaluation

The co-ordinator monitors whole school and class acts of worship throughout the year, alongside the head teacher and governors. From time to time parents and pupils are asked for their opinions through a questionnaire, in discussion groups and their views are taken into account in future planning of worship.

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### Disseminating the policy

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

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### Review of this policy

There will be a review every three years of this policy. Its effectiveness will be monitored by the collective worship leader, together with a senior leaders and governors. This will include discussions with children and other members of staff, observation of teaching and monitoring of children's work. Evaluation of teaching plans will form part of any review. The outcomes will influence the school development plan.