





## ARCHBISHOP OF YORK'S CE JUNIOR SCHOOL COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

Date Adopted June 2024	Kerry Davies Executive Headteacher	Signature 
Date of review June 2026	Timothy Andrew Chair of Governors	Signature 

The Collective Worship Policy at Archbishop of York's C.E Junior School pays due regard to statutory requirements and has taken account of the guidance offered by the Diocesan guidelines.

### **Definition of Collective Worship**

Collective Worship is when the whole school, or groups within the school, come together to consider, explore and reflect upon Christian values, themes, spiritual and moral issues. It is a special time for prayer and reflection that begins with our daily connection with the cross, candle and Bible, and closes with the extinguishing of the candle. It offers a daily occasion in which to worship through engaging in relevant, meaningful experiences and offers opportunities for spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

### **Rationale**

Our collective worship policy strengthens and supports the distinctiveness of our school, and reaffirms our vision and associated values:

*Through AYJS PRIDE, we nurture each individual to flourish, achieve and live out Christian values in a supportive environment that encourages and promotes lifelong learning. Each individual is invited to reflect on the words of Colossians 3, vs 23: *Whatever you do, work at it with all of your heart.**

Collective worship celebrates the central role that each child has to play in their community. It reflects the variety of traditions found in the Church of England, and will recognise and follow the Christian liturgical year. The daily act of collective worship is central to our ethos and is supported by all staff and governors. It makes an important contribution to the overall spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of the whole school community.

Collective worship time should always be inclusive, invitational and inspiring. It lies at the heart of the school and is offered as part of a wider opportunity for pupils and adults to encounter faith by engaging in conversations about God, both as individuals and together. Collective worship should be welcoming and inclusive, and a time in which the principles of Christian hospitality are exemplified; an approach that seeks to meet the needs of all, wherever they may be on their journey of faith and belief.

Therefore, collective worship at Archbishop of York's C.E Junior School is planned to:

- Explore the school's vision and how that underpins shared values and virtues. In doing so, it will reflect on moral values such as compassion, gratitude, justice, humility, forgiveness and reconciliation; and develop virtues such as resilience, determination and creativity that develop character and contribute to academic progress.
- Help pupils and adults to appreciate the relevance of faith in today's world by encountering the teachings of Jesus and the Bible and developing understanding of the Christian belief in the Trinitarian nature of God.
- Offer the opportunity, without compulsion, to all pupils and adults to grow spiritually through experiences of prayer, stillness, worship and reflection.
- Enable all pupils and adults to appreciate that Christians worship in different ways, for example using music, silence, story, prayer, reflection as well as through the varied liturgical and other traditions of Anglican worship, festivals found in the UK and worldwide.
- Enable pupils to develop skills through engaging in the planning, leading and evaluation of collective worship in ways that lead to improving practice.
- Be inspirational and inclusive, engaging all learners. They can talk about the impact it makes on their relationships and on life in the school.
- An opportunity to celebrate and give thanks for achievements within the school, local and international community and occasions of significance, including festivals.

### **Legal Requirements**

The law requires the Headteacher and Governing Body of every school to provide a daily act of Collective Worship which is in line with the schools Trust Deed and foundation.

### **Withdrawal from Collective Worship**

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from acts of worship. Parents' contact needs to be made with the Headteacher, in order that necessary arrangements are made and to ensure that all of the practical implications of withdrawal are appreciated.

### **Inclusion and Equal Opportunities**

Collective Worship in our school is inclusive and provides an experience to which all children can contribute and gain. Children are given the opportunity to make a personal choice as to whether or not they take an active part in prayer or reflection; participation is invitational. The right of withdrawal from Collective Worship extends to everyone. ·

## **Planning Collective Worship**

We recognise the importance of marking out the act of Collective Worship from other assembly activities. Worship themes are planned that centre on one of the Christian values and each half term, links to this are made through music, songs, Bible stories, prayers, reflections, front of hall display board, national and global events, and British Values through 'What's in the News?' resources and planning. Church clergy and staff members explore each Christian value focus and each classroom has the Christian value displayed within their classroom reflection area. Acts of worship follow themes that link to the school's vision and values that interweave with the pattern of the church year. Whole school church services are held at St Andrew's Church in Bishopthorpe at Harvest, Christmas, Easter and at the end of the school year for the Y6 Leavers' Bible presentational service. Worship Team members actively participate in these services and deliver prayers and reflections they have planned and created alongside contributions offered by other supportive organisations to our Church Services, for example York Schools and Youth Trust (YoYo).

We encourage a 4-stage structure of planning including 'Gathering', 'engaging', 'responding' and 'sending'. The views of pupils about Collective Worship are sought through the School Council and Worship Team comprising children from Years 3 to 6. These pupils are encouraged to be involved in the planning and leading of some Collective Worship across the year, and all pupils across school are encouraged and invited to actively participate in and contribute to Collective Worship: volunteering to lead the school in our cross, candle and Bible focal point introduction to Acts of Worship; enacting Bible stories; contributing to discussions; and creating written contributions and art work for our Christian value focus display in the hall.

We make use of a number of resources to form the basis of Collective Worship planning. These include the 'Roots and Fruits' documents and the Values for Life resources (Jumping Fish).

### **Our pattern of Collective Worship**

Whole school worship is held daily. These are taken by the Executive Headteacher, Senior Leadership members, teaching staff or visiting clergy. Class worships are held on some occasions and these are taken by class teachers across the school.

### **Visitors**

Visitors should understand the educational aims of Collective Worship at the school and the need to avoid any proselytising. Attempts to persuade pupils to adopt a particular religious

or non-religious belief are not appropriate. In general, the Headteacher is consulted before a visiting speaker is confirmed.

### **Monitoring and Evaluation**

Our school regularly evaluates our acts of collective worship and the impact it has on the school and its wider community. This involves monitoring by school leaders, staff, pupils, clergy and governors in order to grow and develop. Pupil voice is carried out within the wider school. We also welcome the contributions of parents and pupils through suggestion boxes and questionnaires. These are shared and play an integral part in developing the spiritual growth of the school. Formal observations of worship are made by the SIAMS Co-ordinator, Senior Leadership Team, clergy and Worship Team. Advice is given by our Diocesan Advisor on ways in which to develop our Collective Worship and these ideas are constantly being reviewed and integrated. Worship is independently inspected by law under Section 48 of the Education Act 2005 in consultation with the Diocese of York (SIAMS).