



ARCHBISHOP OF YORK'S CE JUNIOR SCHOOL

Collective Worship Policy



Date Approved:	September 2026	Local Governing Committee
Date of Review:	September 2027	Local Governing Committee

The Full Governing Body will be responsible for evaluating and reviewing this policy

Rationale

Our Collective Worship Policy strengthens and supports the distinctiveness of our school, reaffirms our vision and associated values of 'All In, Reaching Out, Soaring Together' and our K.I.T.E values Kind, Inclusive, Thrive and Explore. It celebrates the central role that each child has to play in their community. Our worship 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.

In Church of England schools, collective worship is seen as more than a daily 'awe and wonder' moment. It is the unique heartbeat 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.

At Archbishop of York's C.E Junior School, we want pupils to leave school with a rich experience and understanding of Christianity, and we are committed to offering them an encounter with Jesus Christ and with Christian faith and practice in a way that enhances their lives. Collective worship in schools, including prayer, reading and reflecting on the Bible, liturgy, sacrament and experience of the musical and other imaginative riches of Christianity, provide a vital opportunity for this.

Collective Worship at Archbishop of York's 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 and, where appropriate, the Eucharist.
- 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
- Help all learners to understand Anglican and other Christian traditions found in the UK and worldwide.
- 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

We acknowledge the right of parents/guardians to withdraw their children from Collective Worship. The school must comply with any request from a parent to withdraw their child and parents are not required to give their reasons for wanting to do so. Should a parent/guardian wish to withdraw their child from Collective Worship we ask that they inform the school [e.g. via the school office ayjs@york.gov.uk].

We will endeavour to communicate clearly the place of inclusive and invitational Collective Worship to ensure that parents are in possession of all the necessary information. However, should a parent/guardian request that their child be withdrawn we will not attempt to persuade them to alter their decision. If a pupil is withdrawn from Collective Worship the school is required to provide supervision but should not incur any additional cost in so doing.

Planning Collective Worship

Specific time is set aside for this activity, and we recognise the importance of distinguishing Collective Worship from other assembly activities.

We aim to mark this special time at the beginning of worship by lighting a candle and saying:

‘Candle, Cross and Bible’

The candle reminds us that Jesus is the Light of our world.

The Cross reminds us that Jesus is at the centre of our school.

The Bible reminds us to listen to God’s Word.

We then follow this with our Bible verse. **Colossians 3:23** says, *‘Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart.’*

We also bring our Collective Worship to a close by saying our school vision statement:

‘All In, Reaching Out, Soaring Together.’

Leading and Planning Worship

Each person leading Collective Worship is expected to plan the act of worship with the same degree of thoroughness as any other aspect of their teaching. We encourage a four-stage structure for planning, including **‘Gathering’**, **‘Engaging’**, **‘Responding’** and **‘Sending’**. There should also be dedicated time for evaluation.

The staff member responsible for planning the worship is given dedicated time to complete the planning. The views of pupils about Collective Worship are sought through the School Council and Worship Team. Pupils are encouraged to be involved in the planning, leading and monitoring of Collective Worship.

Governors are involved in monitoring Collective Worship throughout the school year.

There are a number of resources available to support the planning and delivery of Collective Worship. These include **'Roots and Fruits'**, which may be used as a basis for planning acts of worship.

The programme of acts of Collective Worship is coordinated by **Lucy Carrington (RE Subject Leader)**

Organisation of Collective Worship

Collective Worship is arranged in a variety of ways throughout the week. Whole-school Collective Worship takes place three times each week.

Monday worship focuses on Hymn practice, providing pupils with opportunities to learn and develop their understanding of hymns and worship songs. Collective worship is supported in the classroom setting.

The Friday assembly is a sharing and celebration assembly, it provides an opportunity to celebrate and reward pupils for their positive attitudes, effort and achievements during the week. It is also a time to give thanks for our school community and for the experiences and opportunities we share together. Awards reinforce and celebrate our core school values.

Collective Worship is distinct from other areas of the curriculum and is separate from school assemblies where general information and notices are shared.

Children should be aware of the special nature of Collective Worship. This may be made explicit through the use of our 'Worship Words' at the beginning of worship, 'The Cross, Candle and Bible', which help to create a clear sense of purpose and prepare pupils for worship.

The Worship Team of pupils is encouraged to be involved in the planning, delivery and evaluation of Collective Worship throughout the year. This provides pupils with opportunities to take an active role in shaping and contributing to the worship life of the school.

On special occasions and during significant Christian festivals, such as Harvest, Christmas and Easter, Collective Worship may be held at St Andrew's Church, with involvement from members of the clergy and external visitors. Families are invited to join us for these special services.

Prayer

Prayer, which is inclusive and respects the range of beliefs of the children, can be used as well as prayers that are specific to the Church of England. However, while prayer may be an integral part of Collective Worship, it is optional. Children are invited to take part in prayer but cannot be compelled to do so.

Visitors

Visitors should understand the educational aims of Collective Worship at our 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 will be consulted before a visiting

speaker is confirmed. Visitors should not speak about raising money for any particular cause(s) without the prior permission of the Headteacher.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Collective Worship will be monitored by Governors and Senior Leaders against the aims of this policy. Children and staff will be asked for their views on the effectiveness of Collective Worship, and the outcomes of this evaluation used to shape future planning. Worship is independently inspected by law under Section 48 of the Education Act 2005 in consultation with the Diocese of York (SIAMS). This policy is reviewed annually.