



Aberford C of E Primary School

Collective Worship Policy 2025-2026

Aberford C of E Primary School is a Church of England School, with Christian Values at the heart of everything we do.

Our Christian Vision underpins all that we do:

We respect each other and are proud of each other's achievements. We foster a love of learning and a determination to embrace new challenges. We are creative and enthusiastic in all of our teaching and learning and work together in a safe and happy environment, with Christian values at the heart of all we do.

At Aberford C of E Primary School, we are a family.

Our vision at Aberford CE Primary is rooted in the Bible verse 1 Corinthians 13:

Three things will last forever - faith, hope and love - and the greatest of these is love.

Rationale

Our collective worship policy strengthens and supports the Christian identity of our school, reaffirms our vision and core values of friendship, respect, community and hope and 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 Christian act of 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.

Therefore Collective Worship at Aberford C of E Primary School is planned to

- be inspirational and inclusive. It should engage all learners and they should be able to talk about the impact it makes on their relationships and on life in the school.
- regularly include Biblical material and Christian teaching and this should explore and relate to the school's Christian values.
- have a strong focus on God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit enabling all learners to embark on an understanding of the Trinity.
- help all learners to understand Anglican and other Christian traditions found in the UK and worldwide.
- challenge all learners of all backgrounds to understand and embark on their own spiritual journey. They should understand the value of Prayer, Reflection, Stillness.



- contribute significantly to pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development; by providing all learners with "something more than the obvious, something to wonder at, something to respond to".
- be an opportunity to celebrate and give thanks for achievements within the school, local and international community and occasions of significance, including festivals.

Collective worship should be invitational and an experience that does not offend the integrity of the non-religious or those of different faith.

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 school's Trust Deed and foundation. Parents have the right to withdraw their children from acts of worship on religious grounds. This does not guarantee an exemption from the Christian ethos of the school. Parents wishing to do this must contact the headteacher. Worship is an important part of the ethos of the school which teachers must be willing and able to uphold. It is expected that all teachers will attend daily Collective Worship with their pupils. This is one way for the school to show that worship is central to its life and is important for everyone, not just children. It also makes sense educationally for teachers to know what their pupils are experiencing in Collective Worship. Therefore, teachers should not have time out of worship on a regular basis but only in exceptional circumstances. Collective worship should not be used as part of a teacher's planning, preparation and assessment (PPA) time. It is acknowledged that teachers have the right to withdraw from worship on grounds of conscience.

Inclusion and Equal Opportunities

The achievements, attitudes and well-being of all our children matter. Our Equal Opportunities & Accessibility Policy is intended to help to ensure that this school promotes the individuality of all children, irrespective of ethnicity, religion, attainment, age, disability, gender or background.

Planning Collective Worship

Specific time is set aside for this activity and we recognise the importance of marking out the act of Collective Worship from other assembly activities. We mark out this special time by lighting the three candles as we say our Welcome Words together.

We are gathered in the name of God the Father,

Son and Holy Spirit to worship together

and think about our value.....

Each person leading worship is expected to plan his or her act of worship with the same degree of thoroughness as any other aspect of their teaching. We use a 4 stage structure of planning including

‘Welcome’ ‘Learning’ ‘Reflecting’ ‘Responding’.

and staff should refer to these parts specifically during their delivery.

I Wonder

Staff should use the language of *I wonder* during collective worship sessions to help children to think about the ‘big questions’ and reflect on how the teachings of the Bible help them to develop as people.

Resources

A worship-planning group meets once a term led by the worship co-ordinator. These meetings are an opportunity to review and evaluate the last terms Acts of Collective Worship and to plan themes for the next term. The views of pupils about collective worship are sought through the School’s ACE committee. Pupils are encouraged to be involved in the planning leading and monitoring of Collective worship. School governors have a role monitoring Collective worship through membership of the ethos committee at the school.

We use a number of resources available to form the basis of collective worship planning, including:

- Roots and Fruits 1 and 2 (www.imaginer.co.uk)
- Oscar out of the Box (www.imaginer.co.uk)
- Journey through the Bible (<https://dioceseofyork.org.uk/support/for-schools/journey-through-the-bible/>)
- SPCK assemblies <https://assemblies.org.uk>

When planning the rota each half term, we decide how best, in its own context, pupils should take part in Collective Worship, e.g. in year groups, key stage groups, upper/lower school, tutor/class groups, whole school. The law makes no requirement about this other than it is daily.

The programme of acts of Collective Worship is coordinated by the headteacher, Nicola Crossley.

Our pattern of Collective Worship

Whole School Worship is held 5 days a week. These are taken by the Headteacher and teaching staff.

Schedule:

Monday	Whole school worship	Values Worship – introducing the value from this half term from Roots and Fruits 1 and 2.
Tuesday	Whole school worship	Worshipping through Christian Song
Wednesday	Whole school worship	Worship based on Biblical stories
Thursday	Whole school worship	Themes around safety and information or reflections in class on the teachings of the week.
Friday	Whole school worship	Celebrating our values together

Visitors to our school include:

- Anne and Mike: Church Leaders from Dayspring Church, Garforth
- Father Peter Townsley

Acts of worship generally follow themes that are linked to the school's vision and values and include the pattern of the church's year.



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Collective Worship – 6-year plan

	Autumn One	Autumn Two	Spring One	Spring Two	Summer One	Summer Two
2020 – 2021	JUSTICE	RESPECT	COMMUNITY	GENEROSITY	PERSEVERANCE	DIGNITY
2021 – 2022	COURAGE	TRUST	COMPASSION	FRIENDSHIP	HOPE	WISDOM
2022 – 2023	THANKFULNESS	TRUTHFULNESS	PEACE	FORGIVENESS	JOY	SERVICE
2023 – 2024	JUSTICE	RESPECT	COMMUNITY	GENEROSITY	PERSEVERANCE	DIGNITY
2024 – 2025	COURAGE	TRUST	COMPASSION	FRIENDSHIP	HOPE	WISDOM
2025 – 2026	THANKFULNESS	TRUTHFULNESS	PEACE	FORGIVENESS	JOY	SERVICE

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. Visitors should not speak about raising money for any particular cause without the prior permission of the Headteacher.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Monitoring and evaluation of collective acts of worship, is undertaken by pupils, staff, and governors on a regular basis. All who deliver worship will be observed on a regular basis. This process supports the school's self-evaluation, is a specific responsibility of the foundation governors and is reported to the whole governing body. Pupils are also involved in evaluating collective worship through feedback in weekly class worship, questionnaires and ACE committee meetings. All leaders of collective worship are asked to evaluate continuously, reflect after every worship, to develop and improve their practice. 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 and governors in order to grow and develop, using the Collective Worship Observation Form. These are shared with our Ethos committee and play an integral part in developing the spiritual growth of the school. Worship is independently inspected by law under Section 48 of the Education Act 2005 in consultation with the Diocese of York (SIAMS).

Policy updated: October 2025

Review date: Autumn term 2026