



Archbishop Temple
Church of England High School

Worship Policy

Policy Leader

Mr Ivan Catlow

Last Updated

2026

Date to Review

July 2028

Archbishop Temple Church of England High School

Collective Worship Policy

Our School Vision

Through faith in God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, we nurture everyone's God-given gifts so that together we may shine God's light through Christ-like service.

Scripture

"You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead, they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven. (Matthew 5:14-16)

Motto

May we shine God's light through faith, nurture and service.

1. Introduction

Collective Worship is central to the life of Archbishop Temple Church of England High School. As a Church of England school within the Diocese of Blackburn, worship provides opportunities for pupils, staff and visitors to encounter Christian faith, explore spiritual questions and reflect upon the school's vision and values.

Inspired by the words of Jesus: *"Let your light shine before others"* (Matthew 5:16), we seek to create worship that encourages all members of our community to grow in faith, flourish as individuals and serve others with compassion and courage.

At Archbishop Temple, worship is understood to be **inclusive, inspirational and invitational**, welcoming all members of our community regardless of faith background or belief.

2. Theological Foundation

The Christian faith forms the cornerstone of everything we do at Archbishop Temple. We believe that every person is created in the image of God and therefore possesses inherent dignity, worth and potential. We seek to nurture the God-given gifts and talents of every member of our community so that they may "have life and have it to the full" (John 10:10).

Collective Worship enables us to:

- Encounter God through prayer, scripture and reflection.
- Develop understanding of Christian faith and practice.
- Celebrate God's grace and love revealed through Jesus Christ.
- Reflect on our responsibility to serve others.
- Deepen our understanding of the school's values of Faith, Nurture and Service.
- Support spiritual growth and flourishing for all.

Worship reflects the Church of England's vision for education, "*Deeply Christian, serving the common good*" and Blackburn Diocese's commitment to inspiring children and young people as disciples, leaders and witnesses of Christ.

3. Principles of Collective Worship

Inclusive

Collective Worship welcomes all members of the school community. It values diversity and recognises that pupils and staff come from a variety of faith traditions and worldviews.

Everyone is included; nobody is excluded.

Invitational

Participation in prayer, reflection and acts of worship is always invitational. Pupils and staff are encouraged to engage authentically and respectfully.

Inspirational

Collective Worship seeks to inspire pupils and staff through scripture, Christian teaching, music, prayer, storytelling and reflection, enabling them to consider how faith can shape daily life.

4. Aims of Collective Worship

Through Collective Worship we aim to:

- Deepen understanding of Christian faith and Anglican tradition.
- Promote the school's Christian vision and values.
- Develop spiritual awareness and reflection.
- Foster a sense of belonging and community.
- Encourage respect, dignity and compassion.
- Mark the seasons and festivals of the Christian year.
- Encourage courageous advocacy and service.
- Provide opportunities for prayer and personal response.
- Support pupils in considering life's big questions.
- Celebrate achievement, growth and contribution.

5. Organisation of Worship

Collective Worship takes place daily through a variety of formats:

Year Group Worship

Year groups gather regularly for collective worship led mostly by the school chaplain, and members of SLT. Occasionally worship is led by other members of school staff or groups of pupils. Visiting clergy / church leaders may also lead year group worship from time to time.

Year group Assemblies start with a moment of reflection and a prayer.

Form Worship

Tutor groups engage in worship activities that develop and extend the weekly theme through:

- Prayer
- Reflection
- Discussion
- Scripture
- Liturgical resources
- Interactive activities and games

Liturgical Worship

The school follows the rhythm of the Church of England year, observing:

- Harvest
- Advent
- Christmas
- Epiphany
- Lent
- Holy Week
- Easter
- Ascension
- Pentecost

Celebration of Eucharist

Eucharist is celebrated on the following occasions:

- Weekly in the chapel – each form is on a rota to take part
- ‘Whole school’ Eucharist – takes place in the Autumn Term on the Ethos drop down day, and during Lent
- Year 7 Induction week – at St Cuthbert’s and open to families
- Year 11 Leavers’ Celebration
- Staff INSET

6. Anglican Distinctiveness

As a Church of England school, our worship reflects Anglican tradition and practice.

This includes:

- Use of scripture as a foundation for worship.
- Prayer rooted in Christian tradition.
- Observance of the liturgical year.
- Communion services.
- Visits from clergy and diocesan representatives.
- Opportunities to explore Christian discipleship.
- Partnership with local churches and Blackburn Diocese.

While worship is distinctly Christian, it remains accessible and welcoming to all.

7. Prayer and Reflection

Prayer is a natural and valued part of school life.

Opportunities include:

- Prayer during collective worship.
- Tutor group prayer.
- Staff prayer at the start of meetings.
- Communion services.
- Chapel reflections.
- Prayer spaces and special liturgical events.

Pupils are encouraged to develop confidence in writing and leading prayers and to explore different ways of connecting with God through reflection and silence.

8. The Chapel

The Chapel is at the heart of the school's worshipping life.

It serves as:

- A place of prayer.
- A space for reflection.
- A venue for communion services.
- A meeting place for Christian activities and discipleship groups.
- A resource for RE and spiritual development.
- A resource for other curriculum areas to use for reflection.
- A place where individuals and groups can connect with God.

The Chapel provides opportunities for stillness and reflection within the busy life of the school.

9. Pupil Leadership

Pupils play an active role in shaping and leading worship.

Opportunities include:

- Worship leadership.
- Prayer leadership.
- Scripture readings.
- Music and worship band.
- Chapel activities.
- Evaluation of worship experiences.

The school seeks to develop young people as disciples, leaders and witnesses who can positively influence others through their faith and actions.

10. Monitoring and Evaluation

The quality and impact of Collective Worship is regularly reviewed through:

- Pupil voice.
- Staff reflection.
- Governor monitoring.
- Chaplaincy review.
- SIAMS self-evaluation.

Monitoring focuses on the extent to which worship is:

- Inclusive
- Invitational

- Inspirational
- Distinctively Christian
- Impactful on spiritual development
- Connected to the school's vision and values