



BRIDGE & PATRIBOURNE C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL

Collective Worship Policy & Procedure

Our school vision is based upon Jesus' words: *"I am the vine, you are the branches. If you abide in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit."* (John 15:5) which speaks of how we live and grow together as a Christian community.

We provide opportunities for everyone to flourish and grow within the love of God. Guided by the teachings of Jesus, we cultivate creativity, excellence, and resilience, inspiring pupils and staff to develop their unique gifts and become the best versions of themselves. We aim to equip our diverse community to make a positive difference in the world.

Our core values of Service, Forgiveness, Trust, Generosity and Compassion were chosen to underpin this vision for our school.

Key Personnel

Headteacher: James Tibbles

Collective Worship Lead: Jordan Ablett

Incumbent/Governor: TBC

Key Dates

Reviewed: July 2026

Next Review Date: July 2029

We want to ensure your needs are met. If you would like this document in any other format, please contact us: office@bridge.kent.sch.uk

1. Introduction

Our collective worship policy strengthens and supports the Christian identity of our school, reaffirms our vision and associated values of compassion, trust, generosity, forgiveness and service 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.

2. What is Collective Worship?

Legislation requires schools, including Voluntary Aided and Voluntary Controlled schools, to conduct daily acts of Collective Worship. However, the legislation does not define what is meant by the term 'Collective Worship'.

"... Worship in schools will necessarily be of a different character from worship amongst a group with beliefs in common. The legislation reflects this difference in referring to 'collective worship' rather than 'corporate worship'.

(DfE Circular 1/94 para 57)

Corporate worship assumes a shared set of beliefs and values, i.e. a worshipping congregation meeting on a Sunday, where the worship is confessional and evangelistic (to spread the Christian gospel by public preaching or personal witness).

Collective worship, in recognising the collectivity of all participants, can make no such assumption that all have the same beliefs and values.

Collective Worship should be:

"Appropriate to the family backgrounds of the pupils and their ages and aptitudes."
(DfE Circular 1/94 p.22)

Collective Worship gives pupils and school staff the opportunity to:

- Engage in an act of community
- Express praise and thanksgiving to God
- Be still and reflect
- Explore the big questions of life and respond to national events
- Foster respect and deepen spiritual awareness

- Reflect on the character of God and on the teachings of Christ through Biblical texts
- Affirm Christian values and attitudes
- Share each other's joys and challenges
- Celebrate special times in the Christian calendar

In line with the requirements of the requirements of the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) schedule, we aim to ensure that collective worship:

- a) Offers the opportunity, without compulsion, to all pupils and adults to grow spiritually through experiences of prayer, stillness, worship and reflection.
- b) Enables all pupils and adults to appreciate that Christians worship in different ways, for example using music, silence, story, prayer, reflection, the varied liturgical and other traditions of Anglican/Methodist worship, festivals and, where appropriate, the Eucharist.
- c) Helps pupils and adults to appreciate the relevance of faith in today's world, to encounter the teachings of Jesus and the Bible and to develop their understanding of the Christian belief in the trinitarian nature of God (Father, Son and Holy Spirit) and its language.
- d) Enables pupils as well as adults to engage in the planning, leading and evaluation of collective worship in ways that lead to improving practice. Leaders of worship, including clergy, have access to regular training.
- e) Encourages local church community partnerships to support the school effectively in developing its provision for collective worship.

3. The Anglican Christian Tradition

The following are shared as Christian elements of collective worship:

- Exploring the Christian understanding of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit
- Using the Bible for inspiration, stories and guidance
- Observing the cycle of the Church's Year – Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, Pentecost and Saints Days amongst ordinary days
- Learning and saying prayers from a number of sources, in particular the Lord's Prayer and the blessings in common use
- Singing a wide variety of hymns and songs from traditional to modern
- Experiencing Christian symbols in worship and reflecting on their meaning
- The use of prayer, silence and reflection

- Using Psalms with simple responses – Taizé style¹

We may also use elements which are more distinctively Anglican:

- Using prayers from Common Worship
- Using Anglican sentences and responses at the beginning and end of worship
- Using Collects² as a focus for worship
- Celebrating Eucharist (also known as communion)

4. Implementation

Collective worship is planned by a variety of stakeholders including staff, pupils, the incumbent of our local church and external visitors in consultation with the collective worship leader. This act of worship can take place at any time of the school day and in any regular school grouping e.g. whole school, key stage or class.

Our school plans systematically and cohesively using the Canterbury Diocesan Collective Worship Planning which is adapted and changed to meet the needs of our community. This ensures that there is a shared understanding of the long and short term planning of worship and this enables continuity. Visitors to our school are asked to read and comply with our school visitor and safeguarding policies (as identified on our [school website](#)). This should include discussing the content of any worship with a member of the senior leadership in order to ascertain its suitability for the school community. Visitors are never left alone with children as the supervision of pupils remains the responsibility of school staff.

We are mindful of the variation in personal spiritual styles, such as word, symbol, action and emotion, and staff have been given training to ensure that each worship provides a range of creative opportunities including, music, use of video clips, reflection time (in silence), symbols, verses/motivational texts, acting out.

Our worship consists of 4 stages:

- **Gather** – we welcome the community, for example, (with music, liturgy and the lighting of a candle)
- **Engage** – we share, for example, (a Bible reading, followed by an activity to engage pupils with the Christian message)
- **Respond** – pupils, for example, (discuss, share, reflect, pray or sing)

¹ A style of Christian worship characterized by the repetitive singing of simple harmonized tunes, interspersed with readings, prayers, and periods of silence

² A short Christian prayer

- **Send** – we share, for example, (the message of the worship again and ask pupils to think about how they will affect their day / learning/ behaviour. We close with liturgy, final prayer*, music and the blowing out of our special candle)

** It is encouraged that prayers used in Collective Worship are written by children to encourage greater engagement*

5. Expectations of Pupils

Pupils regularly plan and lead worship on a voluntary basis. They work with the collective worship leader to develop their own understanding of worship and to design a worship to support the spiritual development of their peers.

6. Developing Worship

The school allocates part of its budget to support the daily act of collect worship. The collective worship leader attends regular professional development with Canterbury Diocese and accesses a wide range of resources to ensure that worship is both inspiring and engaging.

7. Self-Assessment and Inspection

Our school regularly evaluates (seasonally) 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. We also welcome the contributions of parents and pupils. These are shared with the Full Governing Body 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 Canterbury (SIAMS).

8. Legal Requirements of Collective Worship in VC schools.

Collective Worship should be conducted in accordance with the provision of the Trust Deeds of the school and Instrument of Government and should be consistent with the beliefs and practices of the Church of England

The Governing Body should ensure that all pupils **each day** engage meaningfully in a real act of Christian worship which is in accordance with the faith and practice of the Church

Arrangements for collective worship, in foundation schools of a religious character, are the responsibility of the Governing Body, after consulting with the Headteacher (*DfE Circular 1/94 para 52 & 53*)



All acts of worship in Church schools must be Christian in character (based on Biblical teachings)

All registered pupils (apart from those whose parents exercise the right to withdraw) must on 'each school day take part in an act of collective worship'

9. Parental Withdrawal

Worship is regarded as special time which wholly reflects our ethos as a church school. It is an inclusive opportunity for those of all faiths and none. We respect the right of parents to withdraw their child/children from acts of collective worship. However, as collective worship is central to our ethos, we would appreciate the opportunity to discuss this decision with parents.

10. Staff Right of Withdrawal

All members of staff, including the Headteacher, have the legal right to withdraw from leading, attending or participating in Collective Worship. Any member of staff wishing to exercise this right should discuss the matter with the Headteacher in the first instance.

As a Church of England Voluntary Controlled school, Collective Worship is a distinctive and valued aspect of our Christian character and contributes significantly to the life of the school community. Staff are expected to support and uphold the Christian ethos, vision and values of the school in carrying out their professional duties. However, no member of staff is required to participate in an act of worship contrary to their own beliefs.

Where a member of staff exercises their right of withdrawal, appropriate arrangements will be made to ensure the continued supervision of pupils and the effective delivery of Collective Worship. The exercise of this right will not affect a member of staff's employment, professional standing or opportunities within the school.