



Nurturing **Ambition
Through a Living Faith**

Collective Worship

1. Mission, Vision, and Values

Mission Statement

Nurturing ambition through a living faith.

Vision Statement

Our academy delivers a purposeful curriculum through its living Christian faith. We nurture ambition in all of our learners in order for them to become positive citizens of tomorrow.

Bible Verse

"Let us not love with words or speech alone but with actions and truth."

— 1 John 3:18

2. Statutory Context and Church of England Principles

As a Church of England Academy within the Cidari Multi-Academy Trust, Collective Worship at Darwen St James' is held in accordance with the Church of England Education Office Statement of Entitlement, Diocesan guidance, the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 (Section 69/Schedule 20), and the school's Trust Deed.

Core Church of England Guidance Principles

In accordance with Church of England guidelines, Collective Worship in our academy is intentionally:

- **Inclusive:** Welcoming and accessible to all pupils, staff, and families, regardless of whether they hold a personal Christian faith, belong to another world faith, or hold no religious belief. Worship respects individual integrity and personal freedom.
- **Invitational:** Formulated as an open invitation to gather, listen, reflect, pray, and respond without compulsion or pressure.
- **Inspiring:** Designed to motivate, challenge, and enable children and staff to reflect on spiritual, moral, and social themes, fostering a sense of awe, wonder, and social responsibility.

3. Aims and Intent of Collective Worship

The primary aims and purpose of Collective Worship at Darwen St James' are to:

- Provide regular opportunities for the school community to encounter the teachings, traditions, and person of Jesus Christ and the Christian faith.
- Explore Christian values (such as love, thankfulness, service, belonging, and perseverance) and their practical application in daily life.
- Foster spiritual growth, allowing pupils time for quiet reflection, stillness, prayer, and personal response.
- Reflect the rich diversity of the worldwide Christian Church, while also acknowledging and respecting major festivals of other World Faiths represented in our local and global community.

- Build a strong sense of school community, celebrating individual and collective achievements in an environment of dignity and mutual respect.
- Develop pupil voice and leadership through active pupil participation in planning, leading, and evaluating worship.

4. Organisation and Weekly Schedule

In accordance with statutory requirements, a daily act of Collective Worship is provided for every pupil. Collective Worship is legally distinct from general school assemblies or administrative notice-sharing.

Daily Collective Worship Timetable

Day	Structure / Focus	Lead / Facilitator
Monday	Whole School - Worshiping God through singing	LP/MM/JT
Tuesday	Whole-School Worship: Key Christian teachings, Biblical narrative, or Global/Moral issues.	Headteacher / Senior Leadership
Wednesday	Clergy & Faith Lead Worship: Liturgical worship, Anglican traditions, and biblical themes.	Local Clergy / Visitors
Thursday	Class / Key Stage Worship: In-depth discussion, active reflection, and prayer response.	Class Teachers / Subject Leads
Friday	Whole-School Celebration Assembly: Recognizing pupil achievements, Growth Mindset, and living out our Christian values.	Headteacher / All Staff / Parents Invited

Liturgical Elements and Environment

Worship is conducted with dignity and respect. To mark the space as distinct, we utilize:

- **The Trinitarian Greeting:** Opening responses acknowledging God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- **Focal Points:** Use of liturgical colors, candles, the Bible, cross, and seasonal displays to create a calm, reflective atmosphere.

- **Anglican Traditions:** Incorporating traditional and modern prayers (including The Lord's Prayer), hymn singing, and biblical readings.
- **Church Services:** Worship is held at the local parish church on a half-termly basis for major festivals (e.g., Harvest, Christmas, Ash Wednesday, Mothering Sunday, Easter, Pentecost, and Year 6 Leavers).

5. Pupil Voice

In alignment with Church of England guidance on empowering young leaders, all of our pupils take an active, hands-on role in Collective Worship across the school:

- **Pupil-Led Worship Roles:** Children light the focal candle, lead the opening and closing words, and read prayers during our worship gatherings.
- **Class Worship Leadership:** Every year, each class takes responsibility for planning and leading their own whole-school class worship.
- **Evaluating Impact:** Pupils regularly share feedback to evaluate the impact of Collective Worship on our school life and community action.

6. Parental Right of Withdrawal

Parents and carers have the legal right to withdraw their children from acts of Collective Worship under Section 71 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998.

- **Consultation:** As worship is central to the Christian character of our academy, parents considering withdrawal are encouraged to meet with the Headteacher to discuss the invitational and inclusive nature of our provision.
- **Alternative Supervision:** Children whose parents exercise the right of withdrawal will be safely supervised in school with appropriate alternative educational activities during worship times.
- **Scope:** The right of withdrawal applies specifically to acts of Collective Worship and does not extend to statutory National Curriculum subjects (such as Religious Education) or general school assemblies.

7. Management, Monitoring, and Review

- **Worship Leader:** The Collective Worship Lead (in collaboration with the Headteacher and local clergy) plans the termly worship schedule and manages resources.
- **Governing Body:** A designated Foundation Governor monitors Collective Worship practice, attends worship sessions, and reports regularly to the Local Governing Body.
- **Diocesan Inspection (SIAMS):** The policy and practice of Collective Worship are formally evaluated during Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) inspections.

8. Policy Links

This policy operates alongside:

- Religious Education (RE) Policy
- Curriculum Policy

- Behaviour & Anti-Bullying Policies
- Equality Information & Objectives Statement