

# EASTRY CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

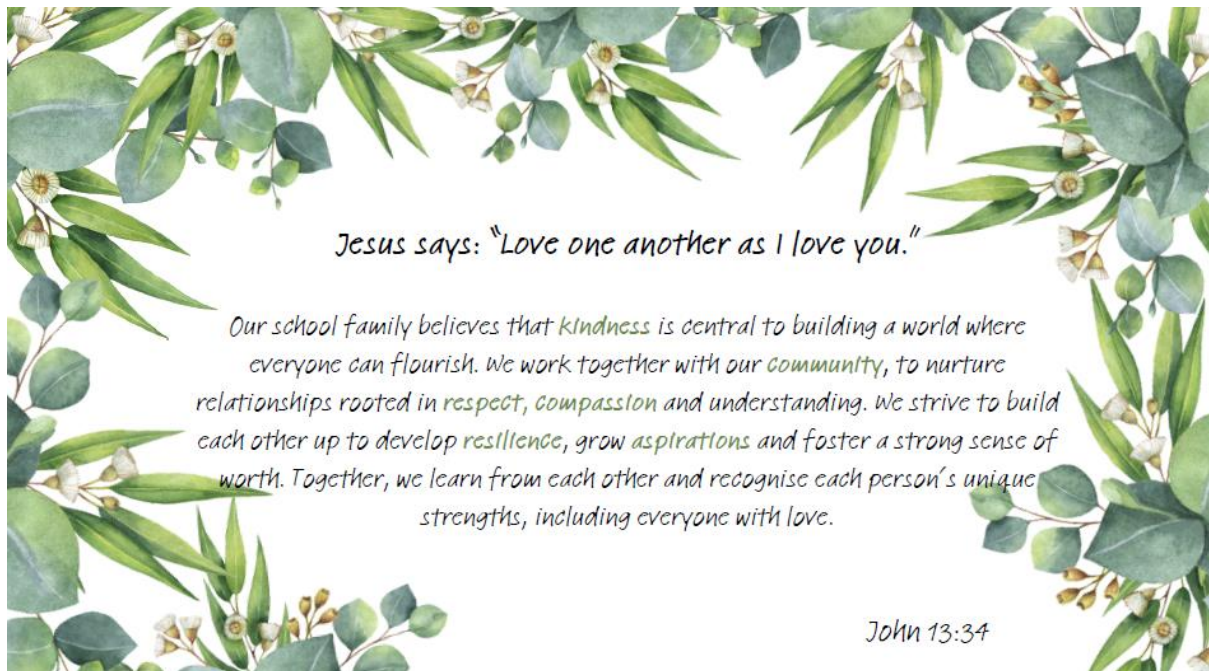


## Collective Worship Policy

**July 2025**

Policy lead	Sarah Moss
Date approved by Governing Body	10 July, 2025
Governor signature	Chair of Full Governing Body
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## Our Christian Vision:



Our Collective Worship Policy strengthens and supports the Christian identity of our school, reaffirms our vision and associated values of compassion, joy, welcoming, respect and perseverance 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.

### **How is this policy a reflection of our distinctive Christian vision?**

*Our school vision is underpinned by John 13:34 Jesus said "love one another as I have loved you." Joining together as a school family to learn and worship, exploring how to be inclusive and love each other through our words and deeds. Our collective worship is a reflective and respectful time- everyone is included. It's a time to be joyful, celebrating our successes, aspirations and resilience. It is a time to show compassion learning about the world around us and the kindness Jesus showed.*

### **An Introduction to collective worship in Eastry Church of England Primary school**

As a Church of England school collective worship is the beating heart of our school life. It brings and gives life to all we do. Collective worship is a sacred and significant time of each school day, where we gather together as a school family.

Collective worship strengthens and supports the Christian identity of our school, reaffirms our vision and associated values of welcoming, perseverance, respect, compassion and joy. It celebrates the central role that each pupil and adult have to play in our community.

Our acts of collective worship reflect the variety of traditions found in the Church of England and 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.

Each adult and pupil will experience worship that is truly welcoming, inclusive and exemplifying the principles of Christian hospitality.

Collective worship therefore will be:

- **Inclusive** – Our acts of worship recognise that pupils, staff and governors come from homes of different faith backgrounds as well as no faith backgrounds, so it will be inclusive of, and fully accessible to all. Care will be taken to ensure that language used by those facilitating worship avoids assuming faith of those participating, listening or watching.
- **Invitational** – In our acts of worship, there is no compulsion to ‘do anything’. Rather, worship will provide the opportunity to engage whilst allowing the freedom of those of different faiths and those who profess no religious faith to be present and to engage with integrity. Pupils and adults will only be invited to pray and sing if they wish to do so.
- **Inspiring** – By asking and discussing big questions about who we are and what we do in worship we hope to motivate pupils and adults into action. There will be opportunities to think, reflect and ponder on their and the wider community’s behaviour and actions.

### **Aims of collective worship**

Collective Worship offers pupils, staff and the wider school community the opportunity to:

- Gather together to share sacred moments of joy, challenge, grief and love.
- Explore the school’s distinctive Christian vision and values in action
- Reflect on the nature of God and on the teachings of Christ through Biblical texts
- Express praise and thanksgiving to God
- Be still, pray and reflect
- Explore the big questions of life and respond to international events
- Foster respect and deepen spiritual awareness
- Explore Christian values and attitudes
- Share each other’s joys and challenges
- Celebrate significant and 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 whether they are engaged in learning in school or at home.
- 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 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.

### **The Anglican Christian Tradition**

The following are shared as Christian elements of collective worship through invitational and inclusive language:

- 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 amongst ordinary days
- 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

We may also use elements which are more distinctively Anglican:

- Using Anglican sentences and responses at the beginning and end of worship
- Using Collects as a focus for worship

### **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 *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. Here is a standard timetable for our collective worship

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Led by: Mrs Moss	Led by: Mrs Gleave	Led by: Mrs Moss and children	Led by: Rev Brown or in class	Led by Miss Gillmore or Mrs Moss
Whole School	Whole School	Whole School	Whole school/	Whole School
Theme: Introduce Question to Ponder,	Theme: singing and praise worship	Theme building on question to ponder	Theme: A different perspective on the Question to ponder	Theme: Celebration worship Star of the Week, Attendance and punctuality awards, BLP award A class leads the school at summarizing our question to ponder
Held in the hall	Held in the hall	Held in the hall and then sent back to class to reflect	Held in hall or classroom	Held in the hall

We are mindful of the variation in personal spiritual styles and provide a range of creative opportunities to enable all to engage in the acts of worship. These include: *(eg: music, silence, symbolism, drama, use of IT)*.

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)*
- **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)*

### Expectations of pupils

At Eastry Church of England Primary school, there is an expectation that all pupils will be involved within worship on a regular basis. This may be opportunities planned ahead of time (*weekly class led worship, ethos team*) or unplanned through questioning, asking for volunteers or simply responding to moments of spontaneity.

Pupils are invited to evaluate and reflect on the impact of acts of worship they have joined with. Their voice is integral to improving the structure, content and in shaping future plans for worship by Pupil Voice and through class worships and Ethos Team.

Pupil worship leaders are supported, encouraged and resourced to contribute meaningful acts of worship on a voluntary basis. They work with the collective worship leader during *lunchtime* to develop their own understanding of worship and to design an act of worship to support the spiritual development of their peers.

### **Developing worship**

Parents, pupils and adults at Eastry Church of England Primary school are entitled to be led in worship by those who have a secure understanding of the nature of collective worship in a Church School context.

Therefore, all those leading worship, including clergy, should have access to regular Diocesan led training.

The leader for collective worship will:

- Ensure that all pupils have access to a daily act of collective worship, therefore meeting statutory requirements.
- Ensure that collective worship is inclusive, invitational and inspiring.
- Attend regular training and network meetings with Canterbury Diocese
- Produce and regularly review the collective worship policy to ensure that it remains and reflects current practice and thinking.
- Liaise with the HT and Governors to feedback on the monitoring and impact of collective worship across the school.
- Ensure all stakeholders know what the expectations of worship are when leading, planning and joining worship.
- Join those who are leading worship to provide supportive feedback on how worship could be developed.
- Evaluate the impact of collective worship on the whole school community by gathering pupil and adult voice for feedback.
- Signpost staff to a wide range of resources to ensure that worship is both inspiring and engaging.
- Support colleagues by sharing new ideas and resources, to help develop their confidence in leading acts of worship.

- Ensure there is a school protocol, that covers safeguarding procedures and a suitability process, for when visitors are invited to lead collective worship.
- Meet with and encourage pupil leaders of worship to enable them to plan, lead and evaluate acts of worship.

### **Visitors leading worship**

Visitors to our school are asked to read and comply with our school visitor and safeguarding policies: (these can be found <https://www.eastry.kent.sch.uk/our-school/policies>). 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.

It is the responsibility of the collective worship leader and senior leaders to ensure that all visitors, who are leading worship in school, will be trained and properly briefed about the school, its pupil context and our school's vision and that they will be supported and monitored as part of the ongoing evaluation process of worship.

### **Self-assessment and Inspection**

Our school regularly evaluates all acts of collective worship and the impact they have on the school and our wider community. This involves monitoring by school leaders, staff, pupils and governors in order to grow and develop. Governors attend worship at least twice a year, staff and pupils monitor worship weekly. Parents provide feedback either at a class led worship or via class dojo comments

The impact of collective worship is independently inspected by law under Section 48 of the Education Act 2005 (SIAMS).

### **Parental Withdrawal**

Worship is regarded as special time in our school day where we gather as a school family. Reflecting our ethos as a Church of England school, collective worship is an inclusive opportunity for those of all faiths and none to be present with integrity. We respect the legal right of parents to withdraw their child/children from acts of collective worship, so would welcome the opportunity to discuss this decision with them. Following these discussions, any desire to formally withdraw children from worship must be done via a letter to the Headteacher.