



Read St. John's Collective Worship Policy

**'Sowing the Seeds of tomorrow; growing in the light of the Lord'
(Matthew 13 v1-23)**

At Read St. John's we aim to unlock the potential for everyone to flourish whilst being rooted and grounded in God's love. We aim high, so together as one family, we can fly.

Fundamentals

In this Church of England Voluntary Controlled school Collective Worship is in conformity with the ethos statement and the rites, practices and doctrines of the Church of England as laid down in the Trust Deed.

The school's ethos statement is:

Recognising its historic foundation, the school will preserve and develop its religious character in accordance with the principles of the Church of England and in partnership with the Church at parish and diocesan level.

The school aims to serve its community by providing an education of the highest quality within the context of Christian belief and practice. It encourages an understanding of the meaning and significance of faith, and promotes Christian values through the experience it offers to all its pupils.

The school's Trust Deed states:

In accordance with The School Standards and Framework Act, 1998, Section 69 (4) and Schedule 20, section 5, the Collective Worship provided in the school, in the absence of a Trust Deed, is in accordance with designation of the religious character of the school by the Secretary of State.

- (a) Collective Worship contributes to the working out of our **Vision** and values and the **aims** and **ethos** of the school, and therefore to the Christian Education we provide. It also contributes to the celebration and exploration of the values of our school.
- (b) Collective Worship is invitational, creative and at the heart of our school life and the Governors see it as an essential part of all pupils' education. As such we take time to resource it properly and ensure that it is of the highest standard. The worship and prayer life of the school is not limited to the legally required daily acts of worship. Opportunities will be taken to use prayer in the curriculum generally as well as before lunch and before home time.
- (c) The Church of England Heritage: Forms of worship within our denomination differ and these differences enable us to provide a varied range of approaches to worship whilst remaining true

to our Trust Deeds. As well as drawing on our denominational heritage, we also occasionally expect to draw on the rich tapestry of practice in the world-wide Christian Church.

Whatever the approaches, we expect that pupils will be introduced to the key beliefs and aspects of the Christian faith and helped to explore them. These would include:

- the nature of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit;
- the nature of human beings as children of God, part of his creation and, though sinful, destined for eternal life;
- Jesus as the Son of God who, through his life, death and resurrection, broke the power of evil and restored humanity's relationship with God;
- the central values of forgiveness, selfless love, redemption, goodness, compassion and charity;
- the central place of the Bible as a source of knowledge about God and Jesus and as a source of inspiration and guidance;
- the importance of prayer;
- the central symbols of Christianity;
- the cycle of the Church year.

(d) Our school is closely linked to St John's parish church.

(e) Worship in the school meets the needs of all pupils

(f) Elements of the religious education syllabus are delivered via school worship. Worship and Religious Education are closely interconnected at our school.

2. Responsibility for the policy

(a) This policy will be updated every three years or sooner if key changes are made.

(b) At present the Headteacher and Deputy headteacher are responsible for the implementation and coordination of this policy.

3. Statement of broad aims

To explore:

- A relationship with God, the teachings of the Bible, prayer and the value of truth, love and goodness.
- What it means to put God at the heart of school life.
- The meaning and practice of worship and faith.
- Moral issues, personal values and beliefs.

To encounter:

- Christianity in action.

- Silence.
- The awe and wonder of God and creation.

To experience:

- enjoyable, interesting and thoughtful worship.
- being part of the school family – sharing.
- achievements, joys and difficulties.
- opportunities to participate, offer ideas and be still and reflective.

4 Organisation and Delivery

(a) Collective worship is planned in partnership with the vicar on a termly basis around chosen themes and significant dates in the Christian calendar. Collective worship is held daily as follows (although changes can occur:

Monday:	Whole school worship led by the Headteacher
Tuesday:	Class worship using the Blackburn Diocese resources – God’s Big Story
Wednesday:	Whole school worship led by Reverend Sue
Thursday:	Key Stage worship based around Picture News
Friday:	Whole school worship (celebration) led by the Headteacher

(b) Collective worship is timetabled to last no more than 20 minutes each day although there may be spontaneous prayer and worship moments in classrooms.

(c) Though worship is not designated as curriculum time under current DfE regulations, it is a major aspect of the whole curriculum provided by the school. Worship is a vehicle for exploring aspects of the National Curriculum and Religious Education and frequently involves teaching and learning activities such as discussion and question and answer. Pupils may be read to or instructed or they may be asked to listen to readings or to think about and respond to a stimulus such as a work of art.

(d) Worship is also concerned with the celebration of the curriculum, with pupils displaying or recounting details of what they have learnt. Frequently pupils are involved in leading worship or performing through dance, drama or music.

(e) Parents and Governors invited to attend special events/collective worship.

(f) The prayer life of the class is evident in each classroom. For example, prayer boards, trees, books and boxes created by the pupils are evident as well as Christian symbols and posters. Class worship provides an opportunity to explore more sensitive issues and gives more pupils a chance to respond in more detail, share ideas and comment.

(g) Notices are always given either at the start of collective worship or at the end. The start of collective worship is signalled by the words “May the light of the Lord be with you” followed by

the children's response "and also with you." There is music at the beginning and the end as pupils enter and leave. Other Anglican responses are also used during worship.

- (h) School worship is held at church to celebrate, Harvest, Christmas, Advent, Easter and Leavers' Day. It is planned in partnership with the vicar.
- (i) Because of the importance placed on the worshipping life of the school, children will not be withdrawn for extra tuition, music lessons etc.

5 Content and Approaches

- (a) Themes for collective worship are planned termly. Ideas are taken from Diocesan advice and a wide range of other religious resources.
- (b) Ideas are linked to the observance of the Church year, national and world celebrations, curriculum work, multi cultural stories and weekly (or longer) themes. The timetable is flexible since there are often occasions when we have to respond to significant events that have taken place in our local or wider community.
- (c) We aim for all worship to be connected to the child's world. There must be plenty of interaction and a wide range of approaches used. Visitors are welcome in our school and encouraged to lead collective worship. Before their arrival a short welcome letter is sent to explain procedures, give information and invite the visitor to make us aware of any special resources or requests.

7. Consultation, Management, Recording and Review

- (a) The Collective Worship co-ordinator (Headteacher/deputy headteacher) have a clear role in managing and developing collective worship throughout the school.
- (b) The termly collective worship rota is planned in partnership with the vicar
- (c) Training is provided in-school and through Blackburn Diocese.
- d) Collective worship is monitored and evaluated by the worship leader, the children and the staff in a variety of ways. The Collective Worship Co-ordinators monitor and evaluate the quality of Collective worship sessions through informal observations and discussions with all members of staff/governors who take part in leading Collective Worship. This helps to keep standards high and to ensure the themes chosen are meaningful and have variety. The success of each collective worship is often self-evaluated by the leader in discussion with the vicar and staff. People offer constructive advice and changes are often made to improve the quality of further sessions. Notes are sometimes made on planning sheets to inform future planning. The children are also invited to

evaluate the Collective Worship sessions and record their comments on a sheet which also provides feedback for the worship coordinator.

8. The legal requirements for Collective Worship in our school

(a) Legal Basis

Collective Worship in Church Schools is governed by the School Standards and Framework Act 1998, as well as by the Trust Deed of the School. The Collective Worship provided by the school must be in accordance with the Trust Deed, or in accordance with the tradition before it became a Voluntary Controlled school.

(b) Daily Worship

Daily Collective Worship has to be provided for every pupil. This worship may take place in various groupings such as the whole school, separate Key Stage groups, year groups or in classes, but not in faith groups. Worship may take place at any time in the school day.

(c) Worship in Church

Worship normally takes place on the school premises, but also takes place in Church on special occasions.

(d) Parental rights of withdrawal

Parents may withdraw their children from Collective Worship and this provision and its limitations are indicated in the school Brochure as follows:

The Worship and Religious Education provided by the school is in accordance with the Church of England. This Foundation is also reflected in the curriculum and the whole life of the school community. Since the conduct of the school as a whole reflects the Church of England ethos, removal of pupils from Worship and or Religious Education (as parents are legally entitled to do) cannot insulate pupils from the religious life of the school.

(e) Complaints about the provision of Collective Worship

It is hoped that any complaint will be resolved informally by the Head Teacher, in consultation with the Governors, and possibly with advice from the Diocese or District. However, if the complaint is not satisfactorily resolved, then formal procedures come into play and the matter will be adjudicated by a specially constituted sub-committee of the Diocesan Board of Education acting on behalf of the Bishop of the Diocese,

Members of staff responsible: Fran Agar/Joanne Shaw

Date policy written: September 2024

Date to be reviewed: September 2027

