

Samlesbury CE Primary School

'Let your light shine!'

Live as a light to others

Live to do good

Live to love God

Based on Matthew 5:14-16



Collective Worship Policy

"You are the light of the world. Let your light shine before others"
- Matthew 5: 14-16

Policy updated: October 2025

Next review date: October 2027

Introduction

At Samlesbury CE Primary School, our Christian vision *“Let your light shine: live as a light to others; live to do good; live to love God”* is rooted in the words of Jesus from Matthew 5:14–16. Collective Worship is central to this vision, offering a daily opportunity for our school community to gather, reflect, and grow spiritually. It is the heartbeat of our school - a sacred time where we pause to encounter God, explore Christian teachings, and celebrate the light within each child. Worship is part of a wider opportunity for pupils and adults to encounter faith by engaging in conversations about God, both as individuals and together. We want pupils to leave school with a rich experience and understanding of Christianity, and we are committed to offering them an encounter with Jesus Christ and with Christian faith and practice in a way that enhances their lives.

Worship at Samlesbury is distinctly Christian and reflects Anglican traditions. The school also draws on the rich tapestry of practices in the world-wide Christian Church.

Worship enables pupils and adults to:

- encounter the teachings of Jesus and the Bible.
- reflect on their own beliefs and values.
- grow in spiritual awareness and personal identity.
- celebrate achievements and foster community.
- explore Christian and British values in action.

Aims

Collective Worship is a vital part of our school day, designed to be inclusive, invitational, and inspiring, wherever pupils may be on their spiritual journey.

Worship at Samlesbury aims to:

- be the central vehicle for exploring and living out our Christian vision and values.
- support pupils and adults in their spiritual development.
- provide opportunities to experience the presence, peace, and power of God.
- encourage reflection, prayer, and stillness, exploring different ways to do this.
- deepen understanding of the Trinitarian nature of God.
- introduce pupils to Christian language, symbolism, and the Church calendar.
- celebrate the richness of Christian traditions locally, nationally, and globally.
- empower pupils to plan, lead, and evaluate worship with confidence and creativity.

Guiding Principles: Inclusive, Invitational, Inspiring

Worship at Samlesbury is designed to be inclusive, invitational and inspiring.

- **Inclusive:** Worship is accessible to all, regardless of faith background. It celebrates diversity and encourages respectful engagement with different beliefs and worldviews.

- **Invitational:** Pupils are *invited*, not *required*, to participate in prayer and reflection. Worship is offered with openness and sensitivity, allowing everyone to be present with integrity.
- **Inspiring:** Worship is designed to uplift, challenge, and energise. It encourages pupils to live out their values, make a difference, and *let their light shine*.

Organisation and Delivery

Worship typically lasts 20–25 minutes and is led by staff, clergy, pupils, and invited guests. Planning is collaborative and responsive to the liturgical calendar, school values and pupil voice.

We meet as a whole school at the end of each day (with the exception of Tuesdays when we meet as a class) and follows a structured weekly rhythm:

- **Monday – Values Worship:** Led by the Co-headteacher, focusing on the half-term’s Christian value (see Appendix 1).
- **Tuesday – Class Worship (Picture News):** Exploring current events and ethical questions through a child-friendly lens.
- **Wednesday – Prayer and Praise Worship:** Includes singing, prayer, and spiritual expression through music.
- **Thursday – Clergy and Thematic Worship:** Fortnightly worship alternately led by Reverend Nathaniel / Co-headteacher, exploring the church year / Christianity across the world / prayer etc.
- **Friday – Celebration Worship:** Led by Y5/6 pupils, celebrating how children throughout the school have “shone their light” throughout the week.

Additional worship experiences include:

- **Godly Play:** Termly sessions for each class, encouraging wonder, reflection and storytelling (see Appendix 2).
- **Outdoor Worship:** Held at least once per term, connecting with God through nature.
- **End-of-Term Celebration Services:** Held at St Leonard the Less Church, led by KS2 pupils, with families and community members invited.
- **Special Services:** Participation in Diocesan events such as the Y6 Leavers’ Service and a joint annual Carol Service with the other two schools in our Benefice worship – both of these take place at Blackburn Cathedral.
- **Participation in Sunday services at St Leonard the Less:** Families are specifically invited each month to family worship in addition to special events such as Harvest Festival, Remembrance Sunday and the Christmas Carol Service.

Leadership and Pupil Voice

Pupils are actively involved in planning and leading worship, particularly in Celebration Worship and special services. They contribute prayers, readings, drama, and music, developing leadership skills and spiritual confidence. Staff receive support and training to lead worship effectively, and clergy are briefed to ensure alignment with the school’s ethos and context.

Links to Wider School Life

Collective Worship is interwoven with our curriculum, pastoral care, and community engagement. It supports pupils' personal development, SMSC growth, and understanding of Christian and British values. Worship also complements our work in PSHE, RSE, behaviour, wellbeing, and partnerships with families and the wider church.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Collective Worship is monitored by the co-headteachers and foundation governors. Evaluation includes pupil voice, staff feedback, and observation. Findings inform future planning and are shared with stakeholders. Worship is reviewed annually as part of the School Improvement Plan.

A worship overview is created on a half-termly basis, recording music used, Bible verses explored, the focus for that day and the message shared to reflect upon on as those in worship go on their way.

Legal Requirements and Right of Withdrawal

In accordance with the School Standards and Framework Act 1998, Samlesbury CE Primary School provides a daily act of Collective Worship that reflects the tenets and practices of the Church of England. This Foundation is also reflected in the curriculum and the whole life of the school community.

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from acts of worship. We comply with any request from a parent to withdraw their child. However, in view of the Christian ethos and distinctive Christian character of our school, we hope that all children admitted will participate in collective worship, and that anyone wishing to withdraw their child will discuss this with the headteacher before making their decision to explore inclusive alternatives where appropriate.

SAMLESBURY

Church of England School

VALUES Long Term Plan

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Love & Grace

Year / Term	Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
2025/2026	Trust	Truthfulness	Perseverance	Compassion	Service	Responsibility
2026/2027	Forgiveness	Reverence & Respect	Justice	Humility	Wisdom	Peace
2027/2028	Hope	Creativity	Thankfulness	Friendship	Generosity	Courage

Appendix 2 – Godly Play Overview

Each class will participate in one Godly Play worship each term, led by the class teacher.

	Autumn 2025	Spring 2026	Summer 2026	Autumn 2026	Spring 2027	Summer 2027
Theme	<i>Christmas</i>	<i>Easter</i>	<i>Parables</i>	<i>Old Testament</i>	<i>Easter – Holy Spirit</i>	<i>Women in the Bible</i>
Infants	The Christmas Story	The Last Supper	Parable of the Lost Sheep	Creation story	The Coming of the Holy Spirit	The Gift of the Poor Widow
Y3/4	Wise Men	Colours of Easter	Parable of the Sower	Noah and the flood	The Faces of Easter	Jesus visits Martha and Mary
Y5/6	The Mystery of Christmas	The Anointing at Bethany	Parable of the Mustard Seed	The Tower of Babel	Pentecost	Jesus and the Woman of Samaria at the Well