

St Nicholas C of E Primary School

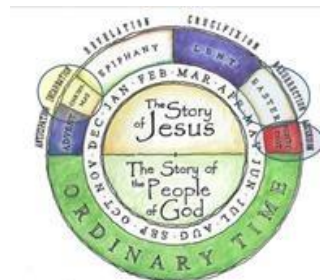


Collective Worship Policy

Reviewed and revised May 2024

Next review May 2026

Church of England Schools are committed to offering high quality collective worship. It is seen as the unique heartbeat of the school and is offered as part of a wider opportunity for pupils and adults to encounter faith by engaging in conversations about God, both as individuals and together. At St Nicholas, worship is welcoming, inclusive and invitational, aiming to inspire whilst exemplifying the principles of Christian hospitality. We seek to meet the needs of all, wherever they may be on their journey of faith and belief and whatever their personal beliefs or world view.



1 Aims and purpose

1.1 The aims and purpose of collective worship are:

- To repeatedly explore the school's vision and how it underpins our shared values and make connections between these and Bible stories.
- To support pupils and adults to encounter faith through conversations.
- To help pupils and adults to appreciate the relevance of faith in today's world by encountering the teachings of Jesus and the Bible
- To develop understanding of the Christian belief in the Trinitarian nature of God.
- To offer the opportunity, without compulsion, to all pupils and adults to grow spiritually through experiences of prayer, stillness, worship and reflection.
- To enable all pupils and adults to appreciate that Christians worship in different ways (using music, silence, story, prayer and reflection)
- To support pupils and adults in learning about the varied liturgical and other traditions of Anglican worship, festivals and where appropriate, the Eucharist.
- To enable pupils to develop skills through engaging in the planning, leading and evaluation of worship

2 Collective worship

Collective worship reflects the Anglican status of St Nicholas C of E Primary School and builds upon the rich, lived diversity of Anglican tradition and identity. In the same way as worship in churches is aspirational, constantly evolving and being re-imagined, there is an expectation of a continuous, dynamic reimagining of what collective worship means at St Nicholas.

2.1 Inclusive

Worship is collective in that it involves meeting, exploring, questioning and

responding to others and, for some, to God. Pupils, their families and other adults can expect to encounter worship that is inclusive of, and fully accessible to all. Collective worship at St Nicholas should reflect our local context. Care is taken to ensure that the language used by those facilitating worship avoids assuming faith in all those participating, listening and watching. It will involve meaningful contributions from the whole school community, including pupils and embraces opportunities to ask questions, to agree or disagree respectfully and to engage at different levels.

Inclusion also develops pupil involvement in planning, leading and evaluating worship. Worship reflects the faith, belief and ethnic communities that our school serves and validates, embraces and celebrates all protected characteristics.

The inclusive nature of our collective worship reflects the ethos of our parish church with whom we partner. This ethos places an importance on welcome and inclusion as expressed by a contextual interpretation of scripture highlighting God's loving nature towards us as created in God's image, regardless of any other protected characteristic.

2.2 Invitational

At St Nicholas, parents, pupils and adults can expect to encounter worship that is consistently invitational. Worship provides the opportunity to engage whilst allowing the freedom of those of different faiths and those who profess no religious faith to be present and engage with integrity. The metaphor of 'warm fires and open doors' captures this idea- it is important that the door is open, all are welcome, to come in and sit as near or as far away from the fire as they feel comfortable. Pupils and adults are invited to pray, if they wish to do so and in their own way. An option to reflect is also given as well as opportunities for stillness and silence.

2.3 Inspiring

Pupils and adults of the St Nicholas community can expect the worship they encounter to be inspirational. It enables big questions to be asked about who we are and what we do. Worship aims to motivate pupils and adults into action, into thinking differently and into reflecting on their and the wider community's behaviour and actions. We aim to inspire pupils, their parents and other adults to become courageous advocates of causes. It will encourage different thinking about their faith, beliefs and/ or philosophical convictions.

3. Organisation of collective worship

The rhythm of daily worship allows pupils and adults to 'step away' and enter a space for an encounter with faith and God. It also provides an opportunity to reflect on larger questions of meaning and purpose.

- 3.1 We hold a daily act of collective worship in our school. This may be with the whole school community, with a Phase in the hall or be held within the classroom in class groups.
- 3.2 A long-term Collective Worship plan is in place. This takes into account the liturgical year, the schools half termly Values and specific special days across the school year. The Head Teacher manages the Collective Worship timetable and the planning of the theme of Collective Worship at St Nicholas C of E Primary School.
- 3.3 Planning is based around a four-stage structure of: Welcoming, Learning, Reflecting and Responding.
- 3.4 The Head Teacher usually conducts worship weekly, in addition other staff, local clergy and other representatives of local religious groups also lead worship throughout the year. Pupils also participate in and lead worship, based on the value for the term or significant events. Our Children and Families worker from St Nicholas Church usually leads Collective Worship weekly, alternating between Phase 1 (Reception and Key Stage 1) and Phase 2 (Key Stage 2).
- 3.5 Our Celebration Assemblies reflect the achievements and learning of the children and gives the opportunity to celebrate and give thanks for achievements within the school and the wider community. It offers an opportunity to acknowledge and reward children for their achievements both in and out of school and highlights our school vision. Celebration Assemblies play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school, which is that all children are valued and all achievements are recognised.
- 3.6 We welcome governors' attendance at our Collective Worship and Celebration Assemblies .
- 3.7 We welcome parents and family attendance at our Celebration assemblies where every child is given their 'chance to shine' and their unique achievements and talents are recognised and celebrated. The children are also welcome to celebrate achievements from outside the school day as part of these assemblies.

- 3.8 Pupils have the opportunity to reflect on worship. Class teachers facilitate the reflection during Class Worship which provides opportunities for children to extend their understanding, reflections, prayer and thought processes.
- 3.9 Children have an individual Prayer and Reflection Book which is used for recording their personal thoughts and contributions at least half termly.

4. Right of withdrawal

4.1 There will always be those who are uncomfortable to enter through the open door of worship and the Church of England recognises the right of withdrawal from collective worship for those parents or pupils who wish to exercise this option. We expect all children to attend Collective Worship. However, any parent can request that their child be withdrawn from collective worship and should do so in writing to the Head Teacher by email to admin3146@welearn365.com, being clear about their wishes with regard to the Collective Worship schedule. The school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during the period concerned. Parents do not have to explain or give reasons for this. This complies with the 1944 Education Act and was restated in the 1988 Education Reform Act.

4.2 The Head Teacher keeps a record of all children who withdraw from Collective Worship.

5. Monitoring and review

5.1 It is the role of a named school governor with responsibility for religious education and collective worship to monitor the policy and practice of collective worship. The governor concerned liaises with the Head Teacher before reporting to the governors on religious education and collective worship, and supports the school with all issues relating to SIAMS. This person is Rev Eira Hale.

Appendix 1

Collective worship schedule

Monday	Collective worship for Phase 2 (Years 3 – 6) 10.35 – 10.55 Collective worship for Phase 1 (Reception and Years 1 – 2) 10.05 – 10.20 This is usually led by the Head Teacher
Tuesday	Class worship led by class teachers and/or pupils held in the classroom at a suitable time during the school day.
Wednesday	10.05 Phase Collective Worship led by Clare Edwards Children and Families worker from St Nicholas Church – alternate weeks with Ways to Wellbeing – Collective worship element usually led by the Deputy Head or staff member leading the assembly.
Thursday	Celebration Assembly for Phase 1 9.05 – 9.30 Phase 2 Worship through Song
Friday	Celebration Assembly for Phase 2 9.05 – 9.30 Phase 1 Worship through Song

Appendix 2 Content

- Themes and content for whole school collective worship are linked to our school values, which are detailed on our website.
- Some staff plan their own respective acts of collective worship using relevant resources, which are linked to the half termly value but could also include whole school themes, reinforce topics being taught in religious education or have particular relevance at that point in time.
- We celebrate major World Religions, significant events and festivals such as Ramadan and Eid, and teach the children about people who have had a significant impact on different religions and cultures such as Guru Nanak, The Prophet Mohammed.
- As part of our British Values we hold special annual assemblies such as Remembrance Day in November.
- We consider it important to teach the children about people who have been particularly influential or showed great morality in history such as Nelson Mandela.
- Christmas and Easter have a dominant influence on collective worship at their respective times of year.
- The season of Advent is marked as a preparation for the Christmas season. Ash Wednesday is marked as the beginning of Lent.
- A variety of ingredients are used to create a rich and varied experience. Across the school year many of the following may be utilised: Bible readings, drama, poetry, images, stories, music, visual aids, visual focus, e.g. lighting a candle.
- Music – We consider music to be a vital part of collective worship. As such it should be appropriate to the themes being covered, be engaging and reflect the rich tradition of Christian experience, historical, contemporary and world-wide. Music is also used to explore our values and their impact on our everyday life.