

Collective Worship Policy 2026-28



Our School Vision

Our school offers a supportive, inclusive, nurturing and inspiring learning environment, where each member is known by God; loved and empowered to reach their full potential. Children are encouraged through an aspirational and engaging curriculum to develop their knowledge, skills and character so that they can truly flourish, both now and into the future.

“Believe Achieve Aspire!”

Our community:

Believe - in themselves and their innate God-given gifts and abilities. Our vision is to dream 'big'. Our community holds a common ambition for excellence.

Achieve - their full potential as individuals. Our exciting curriculum and supportive learning environment provides learning opportunities that we look forward to every day.

Aspire - to make a positive difference in the world. We have ambitious aspirations for our futures by developing our knowledge, skills and character, not just to excel in the modern world but to change it for the better.



Introduction

Our collective worship policy strengthens and supports the Christian identity of our school, reaffirms our values of **Love, Joy, Forgiveness, Resilience and Hope** and celebrates the central role for each child 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.

Aims

Collective worship at St. Laurence CE Junior Academy will support the school's distinctive vision, by providing opportunities for members of the school community:

- to consider spiritual and moral issues and, through reflection, raise awareness of the ultimate questions of life
- to reflect on their own beliefs
- to develop an enquiring mind and express and explore their own views openly and honestly
- to encounter God in Jesus Christ
- to reflect in ways that are of a broadly Anglican Christian tradition, whilst recognising the validity and importance of other Christian denominations, religions, belief systems and other world views.
- to nurture a community spirit, a common ethos and shared values
- to foster an awareness of the world around them and a sense of their place within it
- to take responsibility for their own conduct, charitable giving, and social actions so that they might contribute positively to a multi-diverse society
- to develop a sense of sharing and belonging through different groups of students coming together
- to experience reflective silence in a busy world
- to encourage inquisitive engagement with, and reflection on, the teachings of the Holy Bible
- to learn about and develop good characteristics (Character Education).

The Anglican Christian Tradition

The following are shared as Christian elements of collective worship:

- 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 and Saints Days amongst ordinary days
- Learning and 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
- Using Psalms with simple responses

We may also use elements which are more distinctively Anglican:

- Using prayers from Common Worship

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

Implementation

Collective worship is a legal requirement. In accordance with the Education Reform Act 1988, each school must provide a broadly Christian act of collective worship for all pupils every day. 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.

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. Our school plans systematically and cohesively using the Diocese Collective Worship plans which are adapted and changed to meet the needs of our community. This ensures there is a shared understanding of the long and short term planning of worship and enables continuity. Visitors to our school are asked to read and comply with our school visitor and safeguarding policies:

<http://www.stlaurencejuniors.co.uk/about-us/policies> this includes 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.

Timetable of Collective Worship:

Monday – 10.30 Teaching Staff - whole school - collective worship

Tuesday – 10.30 Whole school – Reverend Catherine

Wednesday – 10.30 Sing and Praise – Music leader

Thursday – Class Worship using Picture News resources. Pupil CW Leadership Group ‘Worship Shepherd’ lead in a different class per term

Friday – 2.50 Whole school - Celebration collective worship. HT/SLT

Additional class worship where appropriate

Services held in Church to celebrate festivals of the Church year: Harvest, Christmas, Easter, Y6 Leavers, Remembrance, additional others through the year e.g. Epiphany.

We are mindful of the variation in personal spiritual styles and provide a range of creative opportunities including (eg: music, silence, symbolism, drama, use of IT).

Our worship consists of 4 stages:

- *Gather* – we welcome the community with music, liturgy and the lighting of a candle
- *Engage* – we share a bible reading, followed by an activity to engage pupils with the Christian message
- *Respond* -- pupils discuss, share, reflect, pray or sing
- *Send* – we share the message of the worship again and ask pupils to think about how it will affect their day / learning/ behaviour. We close with liturgy, final prayer, music and the blowing out of our special candle.

Pupils regularly plan and lead worship on a voluntary basis. There is a dedicated Worship Shepherds Group which engages children in preparing and leading Collective Worship. Specific child-led Collective Worship are planned into the yearly planner. They work with the collective worship leader to develop their own understanding of worship and to design a worship to support the spiritual development of their peers.

The Worship Shepherds use 'Picture News' resources. Picture News is a weekly current-affairs resource designed for schools, including Church of England and other faith schools, that uses age-appropriate news stories and powerful images to help pupils engage with what's happening in the world around them. It comes with a "big question" and supporting materials that prompt discussion, reflection and critical thinking. Picture News also provides "at home" prompts so pupils can continue conversations with their families outside school.

Developing Worship

The school allocates part of its budget to support the daily act of collective worship. The collective worship leader attends regular professional development with Canterbury Diocese and accesses a wide range of resources to ensure that worship is both inspiring and engaging.

Self-assessment and Inspection

Our school regularly evaluates our acts of collective worship and the impact it has on the school and its wider community. This involves monitoring by school leaders, staff, pupils and governors in order to grow and develop. We also welcome the contributions of parents and pupils through our questionnaires, which are reviewed and considered on a regular basis.

These are shared with our staff, clergy and governors and play an integral part in developing the spiritual growth of the school.

Worship is independently inspected by law under Section 48 of the Education Act 2005 in consultation with the Diocese of Canterbury.

Parental Withdrawal

Worship is regarded as special time which wholly reflects our ethos as a church school. It is an inclusive opportunity for those of all faiths and none and is in no way intended to evangelise or proselytise. Prayer and participation is invitational.

We respect the right of parents to withdraw their child/children from acts of collective worship on grounds of conscience. However, as collective worship is central to our ethos we would appreciate the opportunity to discuss this decision with parents. If children are withdrawn from collective worship they are supervised by members of staff.

Collective Worship Leader : S Graham.....Headteacher January 2026

Agreed by Governors : January 2026

Date of next review: January 2028