

St Alban's C.E Primary School



Collective Worship Policy

Reviewed: March 2026
Renewal: March 2027

Faith Hope Love

Our school vision



Our vision is that all our pupils should grow in:

Faith in God, or be inspired by faith, and in their own ability to fulfil their potential,

Hope to be the best of examples, to work to change themselves and the world for the better, and

Love, reflecting God's love in unselfish love for others.

Our vision is based on the God given virtues of:

FAITH, HOPE AND LOVE

1 Corinthians 13:13

Faith

Hope

Love

1. How is the policy a reflection of our theologically rooted Christian vision?

Our school vision of Faith, Hope and Love, Corinthians 13.13 are at the heart of collective worship at St Alban's CE School. It is an opportunity to bring the whole school community together daily to meet with God or connect with their own faith, to be still, to reflect on all that He gives us and to build our community up together in faith, hope and love. Collective worship is planned carefully to acknowledge the love in our school, celebrate successes that lead to hopes in the future and to develop faith within themselves.

2. Introduction

In Church of England schools, collective worship is seen as more than a daily 'awe and wonder' moment. It is the unique heartbeat of the school and will be 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.

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...Collective worship in schools, including prayer, reading and reflecting on the Bible, liturgy, sacrament and experience of the musical and other imaginative riches of Christianity, provide a vital opportunity for this.¹

¹ The Church of England Education Office, *Church of England Vision for Education: Deeply Christian, Serving the Common Good*. (The Church of England Education Office 2016) page 10

Collective worship is a sacred and significant time of each school day, where we gather together as a whole school family. Collective worship strengthens and supports the Christian identity of our school and reaffirms our Christian vision and associated values of Faith, Hope and Love.

3. Aims of Collective Worship

- Offer the opportunity, without compulsion, to all pupils and adults to grow spiritually through experiences of prayer, stillness, worship and reflection.
- Help pupils and adults to appreciate the relevance of faith in today's world by encountering the teachings of Jesus and the Bible and developing understanding of the Christian belief in the trinitarian nature of God.
- To reflect the parish tradition of worship, while giving experience over time for pupils to experience the breadth of Anglicanism.
- Enable all pupils and adults to appreciate that Christians worship in different ways, for example using music, silence, story, prayer, reflection, as well as through the varied liturgical and other traditions of Anglican worship and festivals. **(Where appropriate, and in liaison with your incumbent, this may include the Eucharist)**
- Explore the school's Christian vision and how that underpins shared values and virtues.
- Enable pupils the opportunity to make a positive contribution to worship through involvement with aspects of the planning, leading and evaluation of collective worship.

4. Legal requirements

Collective worship:

- Should be conducted in accordance with the Trust Deed of the school and Instrument of Government and be consistent with the beliefs and practices of the Church of England.
- Unless the right of withdrawal has been exercised all pupils must take part each day in an act of collective worship (DfE circular 1/94 para. 51) and the Governing Body should ensure that all pupils **each day** engage in a distinctively Christian act of worship.
- Arrangements for collective worship in foundation schools of a religious character (i.e. church schools) are the responsibility of the Governing Body, after consultation with the headteacher (DfE Circular 1/94 para 52&53).

5. Planning of worship

Collective worship is planned by a variety of stakeholders including staff, the incumbent of our linked church and external visitors in consultation with the collective worship leader and governors.

The daily Christian act of worship is central to our Christian ethos. It makes an important contribution to the spiritual flourishing of the whole school community. We are committed to providing a daily act of Christian worship which is truly welcoming, inclusive and exemplifies the principles of Christian hospitality.

Collective worship can take place at any time of the school day and in any regular school grouping e.g. whole school or key stage. Our school plans systematically, using both long term and short term plans which enables continuity and cohesion. We use the following resources to support our worship: LDBS planning and Roots and Fruits.

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

When planning acts of worship, we follow the Church of England guidance to ensure that worship is:

- Inclusive – Our acts of worship recognise that pupils and staff come from homes of different faith backgrounds as well as no faith backgrounds, so it will be inclusive of, and 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 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.

6. Pattern of Worship

Our pattern of worship is as follows:

At St. Alban's CE Primary School we believe in holistic and invitational worship that is a whole school collaboration, parents are invited to attend worship. Worship is daily and inclusive. Worship is planned termly based on our school vision, Faith, Hope and Love and the six school values of St. Alban's CE Primary School which are extensions of the vision: friendship

(Faith), perseverance (Faith), compassion (Love), forgiveness (Love), courage (Hope) and creativity (Hope) (See appendix 1.1). Worship is also planned daily and plans are written to ensure pupil engagement, reflection, silence, reflection, music, prayer and high quality delivery (see appendix 1.2)

Worship is delivered by members of staff and the clergy are actively involved in the planning and delivering of collective worship.

Mondays – worship led by staff and based on biblical teachings.

Tuesdays – worship led by staff and based on school's vision, Church of England vision, Valuing all God's children and well-being to help students and staff flourish.

Wednesdays – worship based on singing, led by staff and school choir.

Thursdays – worship is delivered by a member of the clergy in school and builds on the teachings discussed on Monday.

Fridays – worship is planned and delivered by a class and includes a celebration of learning.

At times, the content of the worship is more suited to a specific key stages. In these cases, the other key stage will run their own collective worship in the form of a prayer circle (see appendix 1.3).

Whole School Mass:

We have at least one whole school Mass per term linked to the Church of England liturgical calendar. The children who are on the Collective worship team and the school choir support the delivery of this worship. The whole school also gathers to celebrate Mass at the beginning and end of each term.

Class Mass:

Each week a class participates in a class Mass in the church which they help to plan the music, prayers and readings. This allows every year group to participate in the principle act of Christian worship at a level which is carefully tailored to the age and needs of the year group. Godly play strategies are used in the class Mass to share the Biblical text. This provides the space for children to engage at a deeper level spiritually, to reflect and respond to things of significant importance and make personal responses to the text being shared.

The Collective Worship team:

Our Collective Worship team is made of 6 volunteers from year 6. The aim of the team is to prepare, lead and evaluate our daily worship as well as invite the school community to join in prayer. They work closely with the Deputy Headteacher and the clergy to ensure that the delivery of worship is high quality and engages all adults. The team are also responsible for solely planning, preparing and delivering worship with the Headteacher on Monday's during the Summer term.

Our worship consists of 4 parts:

- Gather – we welcome the community, for example, *(with music, liturgy and/or 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 a final prayer, music, liturgy and/or the blowing out of our special candle)*

7. Collective worship leader

The leader for collective worship is responsible for long term planning of worship, leading acts of worship and supporting staff and pupils who are planning and leading aspects of worship. The leader also monitors the quality of worship and evaluates its impact across the school community.

8. Visitors leading worship

Visitors to our school are asked to read and comply with our school visitor and safeguarding policies which can be found in the school office. 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 context and our school's vision. Please refer to LDBS guidance for visitors leading worship.

9. CPD and training

Parents, pupils and adults in school are entitled to be led in Christian 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.

10. Monitoring and evaluation

Our school regularly evaluates our acts of collective worship and the impact they have on pupils and adults within the school community.

This involves monitoring by school leaders, the collective worship leader and governors and takes place both informally and formally. Everyone who leads worship is asked to evaluate, reflecting on how they can improve and develop their practice. We welcome the views of all those who participate in our worship, including pupils, parents, and visitors *by the use of pupil and parent voice*. This feedback plays an essential part in developing the spiritual growth of our school community.

Foundation governors and the worship leader observe and evaluate worship once every term and report back to the whole governing body. Furthermore, we welcome governors into worship weekly, every Friday.

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

11. Parents and Carers

As a school we recognise that a partnership with parents/carers is essential to help pupils flourish. 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. The school must grant without question any request from a parent to withdraw their child. To

enable clear communication, requests are to be made to the headteacher in writing, by email. However, in view of the Christian ethos and distinctive Christian character of our school, we hope that all pupils will participate in collective worship. This is supported by ensuring that prospective families are fully informed as to what collective worship is and how all present are invited to engage with it and benefit from it. If a pupil is withdrawn from collective worship, parents will have the opportunity to revisit and reconsider this decision. The right of withdrawal would normally be through the physical withdrawal from the act of worship. Experience suggests that, to avoid misunderstanding, the headteacher will find it helpful to establish with the parent the practical implications of withdrawal. Alternative arrangements should not be used as an opportunity for additional curriculum time, but should ensure that the Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural needs of the pupil(s) are attended to. There is no requirement to provide an alternative 'assembly'. The school will keep a record of all those withdrawn and for how many sessions.

12. Evaluation / Review

This policy is reviewed regularly by the collective worship leader in consultation with the Headteacher and ratified every **three years** by the Governing Body.

Appendix 1.1

Half Termly Collective Worship Plan

St Alban's CE Primary School Worship schedule Spring term second half 2026

Week and date	Cloth	Christian Value	MON Whole school Jayne	TUES Class mass Brian	WEDS Singing Jayne	THURS Clergy Martina/Irsa	FRI Class Collective Worship
Week 1 23.02.26	Purple	Forgiveness	Saying sorry and being forgiven	RRS -Article 24	Father God I wonder Psalm 23 Lord I pray	Ash Wednesday discussion and significance	Choir performing in Collective Worship
Week 2 2.03.26	Purple	Forgiveness	Being forgiven and starting again	RRS- Article 17. 29 and 31	Make me a channel of your peace I the lord of sea and sky	Clergy Zacchaeus	Collective Worship
Week 3 9.03.26	Purple	Forgiveness	Amazing Grace	RRS – Article 2 EYFS Class Mass	If I were a butterfly Everywhere around me	Matthew 2 Luke 11	EYFS Collective Worship
Week 4 16.03.26	Purple	Forgiveness	Forgive us our sins as we forgive those of others.	RRS – Article 24	Thank you Lord Here I am to worship	The Lords Prayer	Collective Worship
Week 5 23.03.26	Purple	Forgiveness	The cross-a symbol of forgiveness	RRS – Article 27	Easter Jubilation Life is a wonderful thing	Whole School Maundy Thursday Mass	Whole School Good Friday Mass

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Appendix 1.2
Daily Worship Plan

<p>St Alban's C.E Primary School Collective Worship Master plan Date:</p>
<p>Theme:</p>
<p>Biblical text: Will be found on the CW schedule</p>
<p>Preparation: Entry music: Resources: Remember the lighter that is kept in my desk drawer. Gathering: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One member of each class brings up a candle. • A child lights the candles. • 1 child brings up the Bible – the Bible is opened at our Biblical verse • The school prayer is said and signed: Thank you God for this day. Thank you for the sun and for the rain. Thank you for friendship and love. Amen • The school is greeted with Good Morning • Biblical text is read </p>
<p>Engagement: Theme introduced: Performance</p>
<p>Reflection and silence: Providing children with the opportunity to make personal connections with what they have heard and understood. (Pupil voice has informed us that children want longer time for this) Ideas to help children into silence: (base this on the value or biblical text) I wonder..... Visualization Painting to reflect on Words to reflect on Music to listen to You may want to end the silence with a prayer</p>
<p>Sending out music:</p>

Appendix 1.3

Prayer Circle Plan



Prayer Circle
<p>Intro: Child brings candle on tray to the circle Candle is lit School prayer is said</p>
<p>Main input:</p> <p>An item from the news is explored with the children. News round is used to support this.</p> <p>Key questions raised from the current affair Opportunity for talk partners and brief discussion Links made with the term's spiritual value where possible Links made with your class spiritual value</p>
<p>Prayer:</p> <p>Thoughts are gathered for prayer and written on pieces of paper that are placed around the candle.</p> <p>These may include:</p> <p>Thoughts from the current affair explored Prayer requests from the children themselves Prayers children have written in the session</p>
<p>Silence/Reflection</p> <p>Children are asked to be silent as they reflect/remember/pray for the things that are on their hearts or been placed around the candle.</p> <p>Some children may want to pray aloud and you may want to encourage this:</p> <p>Phrases into prayer:</p> <p>Thank you God for..... We pray for... We remember the.....</p> <p>The silence ends by singing: Kyrie</p>
<p>Closing the prayer circle:</p> <p>Children say together their class Biblical text.</p> <p>Note: Year 5 when the value is forgiveness: Your verse is not appropriate to close the prayer circle with so just end with the Kyrie and use your verse to link into silence with, if it links.</p>

