

**ST JOHN THE BAPTIST
C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL
FINDON**

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY



Reviewed:	September 2025
Next Review:	September 2028
Approved by:	The Governing Board

Colossians 2:7 (NIV): "Let your roots grow down into him, and let your lives be built on him. Then your faith will grow strong in the truth you were taught, and you will overflow with thankfulness."

Our vision is to grow in Christ, to belong to community and to serve with purpose. Inspired by Colossians 2:7, we strive to help each child put down deep roots in faith, build strong foundations in truth, and grow in character. Rooted in Christian values of respect, resilience, honesty, and love, we nurture every child spiritually, academically, and socially. We celebrate the uniqueness of each individual, fostering a sense of belonging where every child feels seen, valued, and included, which helps our children become confident and compassionate, bringing joy to others and living with purpose in their community and beyond.

Date Completed - Summer 2025

Review Date - Summer 2028

Contents:

Statement of intent

1. Legal framework
2. Definition of collective worship
3. Aims of collective worship
4. Organisation and planning
5. Implementation
6. Right to withdraw
7. Monitoring and review

Statement of intent

At **St John the Baptist C of E Primary School** we recognise our statutory duty to provide daily collective worship for all our pupils and will provide **20 minutes** of worship a day to enable pupils to explore their own beliefs and consider spiritual and moral issues.

Collective Worship reflects something special and is separate from ordinary school activities. It is a time of coming together with opportunity given to worship God and to think about spiritual and/or moral issues. It should enable participating pupils and staff to consider events of the world and appreciate the rich tapestry of human experience and existence.

This policy outlines how the school implements collective worship within our daily routines, including the aims of collective worship and how pupils can be withdrawn.

Legal framework

This policy has due regard to all relevant legislation and statutory guidance including, but not limited to, the following:

- The School Standards and Framework Act 1998
- The Education Reform Act 1988
- The Education Act 1993
- DfE (1994) 'Religious Education and Collective Worship'
- DfE (2010) Religious education in English schools: Non-statutory guidance
- DfE (1994) Religious education and collective worship (Circular 1/94)

This policy operates in conjunction with the following school policies:

- RE Policy
- Special Educational Needs & Disabilities (SEND) Policy
- Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) Education Policy

1. Definition of Collective Worship

'Worship' is not defined in the legislation; therefore, for the purpose of this policy, **"collective worship"** reflects an act which is special or separate from ordinary school activities. It is a time when individuals come together, and reverence or veneration is paid to a divine being or power.

To take part in collective worship implies more than a passive attendance, such that it should have the ability to elicit responses from pupils even though they may not feel able to actively identify in the act of worship on a particular occasion.

2. Aims of Collective Worship

Collective worship aims to:

- Provide the opportunity for pupils to worship God.
- Enable pupils to consider spiritual and moral issues, as well as explore their own beliefs.
- Encourage participation and response via active involvement or through listening and participating in the worship offered.
- Develop a spirit of community and an understanding of individuals with other beliefs.
- Acknowledge diversity and affirm each individual's life stance, whether religious or not.
- Promote a common ethos and shared values.
- Reinforce positive attitudes.
- Provide pupils with the opportunity to plan, lead or contribute to discussions on key themes and topics, e.g. morality.
- Provide a peaceful environment to enable stillness, prayer and reflection.
- Help pupils to develop an awareness of their community and the spirit of helping others.

3. Principles

- Collective Worship will take place each day on the school premises.
- It will be attended by all pupils, subject to the right of withdrawal.
- It will reflect the traditions of the Christian faith.
- It will foster the special relationship between the school and St John the Baptist Church, Findon.

4. Organisation and planning

The school will implement collective worship in line with advice given by the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE).

The headteacher is responsible for creating the agenda for collective worship.

The provision of Collective Worship is shared by all the teaching staff.

Different themes are followed each half term based on A Fresh Approach to Collective Worship which is provided by the Diocese of Canterbury.

Each half term starts with a launch assembly based on our school values.

The act of worship will be held for 20 minutes daily in the school hall for four days and one day based in classrooms.

The content of all acts of collective worship will be considered to ensure suitability and relevance to pupils of all ages and backgrounds.

The headteacher will establish a timetable for collective worship to make sure progression from each session is carried on to the next, as well as to ensure that learning is practically applied by pupils to their lives inside and outside of school.

The school may invite visitors or guest speakers to speak during collective worship, in accordance with the timetabled theme.

Guest speakers will be required to adhere to the school's Safeguarding Policies.

The school will understand that collective worship and assembly are distinct activities, and, although they may take place as part of the same gathering, the difference between the two will be considered.

Where appropriate, each assembly held will have a theme relevant to current affairs and topics agreed by the headteacher and governing board.

The hall displays links to our termly school values.

The Collective Worship Lead is the Headteacher who organises policy development, planning, monitoring and delivery.

Weekly Organisation is:

Monday – Content launch by the headteacher in the hall

Tuesday – Hall

Wednesday – Class

Thursday – Songs of Praise

Friday - Celebration

5. Implementation

The school will promote rich and meaningful experiences of collective worship that are appropriate to pupils' needs, ages and interests by:

Presenting displays that promote and enhance spiritual ideas and thoughts.

Encouraging pupils to reflect and contemplate on their thoughts, feelings and beliefs.

Using artefacts, secular stories, resources, music, art, drama, and guest speakers to engage pupils' interest.

Involving pupils in different experiences of worship, e.g. silence, prayer, rituals and shared or written prayers.

The school will take into account pupils of different ages and abilities when delivering the collective worship programme.

The school will arrange for learning mentors to assist pupils with SEND if the need arises, in accordance with the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Policy.

Inspection of collective worship will be arranged with the following religious authority:

- Chichester

Right to withdraw

Parents will have the right to withdraw their child from collective worship and will not be required to provide a reason for doing so.

Parents will be encouraged to discuss their decision with the headteacher following a request of withdrawal in terms of:

- The elements of worship in which the parent would object to the pupil taking part in.
- The practical implications of their withdrawal.
- Whether the parent will require notice in advance of such worship, and if so, what period of notice is preferred.

Alternative arrangements will be put in place for pupils who are withdrawn from collective worship.

Alternative arrangements may involve religious worship relevant to their particular faith or denomination provided that:

- The effect of the alternative provision would not replace the denominational collective worship with that of the statutory, non-denominational worship.
- Such arrangements can be made at no additional cost to the school.

The alternative arrangements will be consistent with the overall purposes of the school curriculum.

6. Monitoring and review

This policy will be reviewed every three years by the headteacher in agreement with the governing board.

This policy will be evaluated in accordance with feedback from questionnaires and class discussions.

Any changes made to this policy and the collective worship programme will be communicated to all members of staff.

The scheduled review date for this policy is September 2028.