Collective Worship Policy

Church Vale Primary School

2026-2027

POLICY STATEMENT FOR COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Introduction

At Church Vale, we believe that Collective Worship provides a valuable focus for the school community and helps reflect the tone and ethos of the school.

Background to Collective Worship at our School

Families who send their children to our school are in the main Christian. In addition, there are a small number of children who are from religions other than Christianity and some from non-religious backgrounds.

We recognise that in asking our children to worship, we have to consider the background that they come from. It is not the practice of this school to preach to or convert the children. The faith background of both the staff and the child's family is respected at all times.

Legal Requirements

It is a legal requirement that all registered school age pupils take part in an act of worship each day (The Education Reform Act 1988.) These acts of worship must be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character for the majority of the time. They must also be appropriate, having regard to the ages, aptitudes and family backgrounds of the pupils.

The Head Teacher is responsible (under the School Standards and Framework Act 1998) for arranging the daily collective worship after consulting with the governing body. Parents have a right to withdraw their children from collective worship. If a parent asks for their child to be wholly or partly excused from attending collective worship, the school must comply unless the request is withdrawn. Any parent who wishes to exercise this right should consult the Head Teacher. Teachers may also withdraw from collective worship.

Aims

We believe at this school that collective worship both supports and strengthens what we aim to do in every aspect of school life. Our caring ethos and the value which we place upon the development of the whole child, spiritually, morally, socially, culturally and intellectually is reflected in our worship. We value this special time in the school day for the space it gives children to develop a reflective approach to life and the ability to express their reflections in traditionally religious ways or any other appropriate manner.

Through our collective worship we aim to provide a caring and supporting environment for children to:

- Become increasingly aware of themselves as individuals and groups within the school and wider community
- Grow in understanding of the feelings of other people in every-day situations and beliefs

- Explore the language which people use to express their feelings
- Deepen their sense of wonder about the world around them
- Grow in confidence when making a presentation to the group or whole school
- Respond freely to religious and/or spiritual stimulus

- Acknowledge diversity and affirm each person's life stance, whether it be religious or not
- Provide time for quiet reflection

Objectives

- We see school worship as an educational opportunity to encourage pupils to:
- Show interest in, and a concern for, members of the school community
- Celebrate special occasions and achievements together
- Show concern for the daily happenings in school life, the local community and the wider world
- Explore and review the variety of values, attitudes and standards, manifested in religions and society
- Reflect upon dimensions of human life e.g. the wonderful, beautiful, joyful, heroic, humorous, tragic
- Reflect on the way in which humankind has expressed the deepest spiritual feelings, through the creative and expressive arts, scientific discovery, religious practice, service to other people and to God.

Planning and organisation

In our school we combine our acts of worship with assembly, helping to ensure that worship takes place within a broad educational framework. The whole school meets together, five days a week.

We believe that creating the right atmosphere is crucial to the quality of the worship. We plan the time so that there is a variety in content and methods, allowing opportunity for quiet personal reflection/worship.

The Head Teacher usually leads the whole school worship, with a rota of other staff leading worship on other occasions:

We choose from a range of methods, including:

Pupil's contributions

Sacred and secular stories/readings

Dance/drama

Prayer/reflection/meditation/songs/hymns/music

Artefacts/natural materials

Visual aids/focal points

Dialogue/creative silence

Visitors

Music

We consider songs and music to be very powerful means of creating the right atmosphere and believe that it unifies and uplifts the school community. We have a bank of songs and music from which to draw, taken from a variety of cultures and types. We select our songs and music carefully to match the theme.

Prayer
We feel that prayer is a good way of enabling children to focus their thoughts. Nevertheless, pupils should not be required to say or affirm prayers in which they do not believe. We have developed various forms of introduction to our prayers which distance children, whilst giving the opportunity to participate if they so desire.
It is not always necessary to have a prayer. The use of regular moments of silence and reflection provides opportunities for some pupils to respond in a personal way if they so wish.

Visitors
We enjoy the fresh approach which visitors can bring to our school worship. We have made links with some people who visit us regularly to lead worship.
We also attend our local church for Harvest Festival and Christmas Carols.

Success Criteria
At this school we evaluate our acts of worship against some of the following:
Involvement, enjoyment, attention, reaction of pupils
The growth of respect and tolerance within the school community
Positive response to shared experience
An atmosphere which matches the theme
A contribution to individual and community sense of well being

Whole School Issue
Review and updates of this policy will be according to agreed school's monitoring and evaluation schedule.

Date policy agreed: September 2026

Signed: J Yardley September 2027