

Collective Worship Policy

Collective Worship is the heartbeat of the school, driving and supporting the school's vision and values, where those of faith or none feel at ease. It is inclusive, invitational and inspiring, providing time to learn, reflect and leave empowered to make ourselves and the world around us that little bit better. It provides opportunities to respectfully think, question, consent, dissent, participate, consider or stand back, enabling everyone to feel comfortable whenever and wherever Collective Worship takes place.

We are a Church of England School, founded on the tenets of Christian Faith so it is therefore right that, with care and sensitivity, Collective Worship provides opportunities to encounter a Christian faith through the teachings of Jesus and the Bible. It is also the time and place for all those present to experience the season and festivals of the church year.



Roots that strengthen.
Branches that reach.
Fruit that flourishes.



This policy was agreed by the Local Governing Body	
Date Approved	Autumn 2023
Review Date	Autumn 2025
Policy Authors	Standlake Community

A legal note: By law, Collective Worship must be provided for every child every day and reflect the school's Trust Deed. Our policy sets out clearly our aspiration that Collective Worship will be a valuable and valued experience for all, whatever their backgrounds and beliefs. It is never coercive or indoctrinatory. Parents have a right to withdraw their children from all or any acts of worship. To do so, they must speak with the headteacher in the first instance.

Our Vision and Values

Our distinctly Christian vision statement of ROOTS THAT STRENGTHEN, BRANCHES THAT REACH, FRUIT THAT FLOURISHES is inspired by The Parable of the Sower (Matthew 13:1-23): The seeds (*us*) that grow best are those that fall on good soil (*teaching*), have strong roots encouraging growth (*learning*) and produce a good harvest (*success*). This vision creates the heartbeat of our school and the foundations of our Collective Worship.

Our values are drawn from Colossians: 3:12-15, where we are encouraged to 'clothe ourselves' in these character traits so that we make ourselves and the world around us a better place:



and



drive our behaviour to help those in need and accept others' differences so that we have an inclusive education and community.




ensures that we tell the truth in our interactions between each other, so that we celebrate what is good and challenge what needs to be better.



encourages us to give and accept an apology, so that we are able to work alongside each other in a place where it is OK to make mistakes in our work and relationships.



encourages us to be grateful for what we have and share the variety of gifts that have been given to us: academic, extra-curricular and social.

We have also included the value of  because we want the children to be resilient in giving things a go, however hard they may first appear.

But the greatest of our values is  because it underpins everything.

Aims and Objectives of our Collective Worship

- Create an environment where everyone feels at ease
- A sense of belonging.
- Be inclusive, invitational and inspiring.
- Work in partnership with St Giles Church clergy and its members.

- Explore our vision and values and how they underpin our thoughts and actions.
- Nurture opportunities to engage in reflection, stillness, meditation and prayer.
- Understand Christian faith & church liturgy (customary ideas, phrases, or observances).
- Explore Jesus' teaching, Bible stories and the Holy trinity.
- Provide opportunity for people to be inspired by Jesus life and encounter him
- Follow the seasons of the Church year, including significant festivals (see Appendix D)
- Celebrate the diversity of cultures, lifestyles, other faiths and secular worldviews.

- Nourish spiritual (see Appendix A), moral, social and cultural development.
- Foster awe and wonder of the natural world & our shared responsibilities for maintaining it.
- Celebrate the academic, social, personal and wider achievements of those present.
- Encourage and support experiences of joy and sorrow.
- Increase awareness of the fundamental issues and events of life locally, nationally & globally.

- Provide a sense of occasion that is separate from the rest of the school day.
- Experience 'worship' in different ways, for example, using music, drama and stories.
- Encourage those present to be involved in preparing, participating and lead.

Just as the modern-day church seeks to evolve and develop its practices to meet the changes in our society, so too do we look to continually develop our Collective Worship, by seeking the views of all those present through feedback. We do this through discussions, observation, evaluations and reflective practice by the leaders, all feeding into the planning for future worship.

Inclusive

We recognise that pupils, parents and staff may come to Collective Worship with no faith, a growing faith, committed faith or a different faith, so we are inclusive and fully accessible to all. It is collective in that it involves meeting, exploring, questioning and responding to others and, for some, to God. Our Collective Worship involves meaningful contributions from the whole school community, including pupils, with their own experiences.

Invitational

Our Collective Worship is consistently invitational, with no compulsion to 'do anything'. It is an opportunity to engage whilst allowing the freedom of those with no or differing faiths to be present and to engage with integrity.

Prayer, including our daily School Prayer, is introduced with a form of words that invites but does not coerce those present to participate. Prayers are addressed to God reflecting the traditions and practices of the Church of England. Those who prefer not to pray are encouraged to use these times to reflect on the important messages shared in our worship.

Inspiring




Our Collective Worship aims to be formational (character building) and transformational (character changing). It enables all those present to ask big questions about who we are, and why we do what we do. It aims to motivate those into action, into thinking differently and into reflecting on their and the wider community's behaviour and actions, leading to courageous advocacy (brave support) of causes.

The Pattern & Planning of Collective Worship

To ensure that Collective Worship is the heartbeat of the school, our Collective Worship is carefully organised and planned so it is the thread that weaves itself through the week, pulling together all the different elements of school life, inspiring what we say and do in that time, always being driven by our vision and values.

Collective Worship is planned to cover topics and themes according to what is most appropriate to the season of the church year, global, national and local issues, special events, festivals and our school calendar (See Appendix B).

Daily Collective Worship takes place in the school hall, classrooms and St Giles church, with each gathering following a pattern of *'learning from, thinking about and creating change'*. We have likened this to the analogy of *windows* (looking outwards and inwards), *mirrors* (reflecting on what we have learnt) and *doors* (creating change when stepping into world). Our Collective Worship aims to motivate those present to make change in themselves, others and/or the world around them i.e. courageous advocacy.

	 Learning from...	 Thinking about...	 Creating change...
Marvellous Monday	Hall based. Leadership/clergy led. Jesus' teaching/Bible story Church Calendar/Vision and Values	All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness 2 Timothy 3:16	Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. Matthew 7:24-29
Tuneful Tuesday	Hall based. Teacher led. Music that moves us. History, tradition & modern	Come into his presence with singing! Psalms 100:1-2	For you shall go out with joy. Isaiah: 55:12
Wonder Wednesday	Hall based. Teacher led. Big questions, issues & life events. Topical: Locally, nationally & globally	The whole earth is filled with awe at your wonders Psalms 65:8	The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it. Genesis 2:15
Thoughtful Thursday (See Appendix C)	Class based. Teacher led. Reflection on Monday's theme Talking. Thinking. Doing.	"Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you" Matthew 7:7	In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven. Matthew 5:16
Fantastic Friday	Hall based. Collectively led. Celebration and thankfulness. Achievements & accomplishments	I can do all things through Him who strengthens me. Philippians 4:13	"You shall love your neighbour as yourself." There is no other commandment greater than these." Mark: 12:31

Music and singing play an integral part of our Collective Worship, be it used to create stillness, calm, prayer and reflection or to be used to capture or inspire the joy of the moment. It often includes traditional and modern-day music and song as a way of reinforcing themes of that day/week or with a social and moral message.

The Leadership and Evaluation of Collective Worship

Leadership of Collective Worship is a collective effort from all those in and outside our school community, be it school leaders, teaching staff, clergy, church wardens, parents or visiting speakers. Where possible we encourage those of different faiths to participate, increasing pupils' awareness, promoting respect and raising the self-esteem of pupils who belong to other faiths.

Children are given the opportunity and responsibility of helping to plan Collective Worship, opening and closing Collective Worship, bringing to the table symbols that represent elements of our worship for that day, lighting of candles, reading prayers, and using a variety of forms of greeting and sending out prayers.

Our Understanding of Spirituality

For us, spiritual growth comes from being given the opportunities to think about **ourselves** (understanding who we are), **others** (the relationships we have), the **world's beauty** (how we respond to what is around us) and the **world 'beyond'** (experiences and ideas that are special and unusual and cannot easily be understood in ordinary ways).

We have taken the tree image of our vision of **Roots that Strengthen. Branches that Reach. Fruit that Flourishes** as a visual representation and metaphor that will resonate with the school community.

Spiritual awakening is like the growth of a tree: *The roots and trunk represent our understanding and development of 'self' and our place in the world, shaped by our values; the branches represent the relationships and interactions we have with others; the shoots and leaves represent the awe and wonder to what us is around; the fruit represents the expression of these things coming together in our words and actions. For the tree to grow it also needs light (from the sun) which represents that which we cannot touch, easily see or put into words – it is the 'other worldly' experiences that shape our lives in different ways. Growth also comes from water and this is 'the how' we develop spirituality in our school.*



Collective Worship Overview: Topics and Themes

Term 1		Term 2		Term 3	
Marvellous Monday	Wonder Wednesday	Marvellous Monday	Wonder Wednesday	Marvellous Monday	Wonder Wednesday
<p>The Words of Jesus I am the Light of the World Blessed are the Peacemakers This is how you should pray Do not be worried Do not judge others A tree is known by its fruit Love one another</p>	<p>Our School Vision Disability Awareness Day International Day of Democracy School Council Elections Recycle Week Black History Month How do we keep you safe in school?</p>	<p>Advent & Christmas The coming of Jesus is foretold Zechariah and Elizabeth The angel announces good news Mary visits Elizabeth The long journey to Bethlehem Jesus is born The coming of the Magi The escape to Egypt</p>	<p>Romanian Shoe Box Appeal Remembrance Day Anti-Bullying Week Inter-faith Week Road Safety Week Human Rights Day NSPCC PANTS People Who Inspire Us</p>	<p>People Jesus Meets Simeon and Anna The teacher in the Temple John the Baptist The tempter Nathaniel the children Zacchaeus Martha and Mary</p>	<p>Conference of Parties World Religions Day Holocaust Memorial Day Chinese New years Safer Internet Day Acts of Kindness Week People Who Inspire Us</p>

Term 4		Term 5		Term 6	
Marvellous Monday	Wonder Wednesday	Marvellous Monday	Wonder Wednesday	Marvellous Monday	Wonder Wednesday
<p>Holy Week & Easter Jesus enters Jerusalem Jesus clears the temple Jesus and the Last Supper Jesus is betrayed Jesus is crucified The risen Jesus meets Mary The risen Jesus meets Thomas Jesus ascends to heaven</p>	<p>Lent and 40 Acts of Kindness International Woman's Day How do we keep you safe in school? Fairtrade Fortnight People who inspire us</p>	<p>The Parables of Jesus The wise and foolish builders The Sower The good Samaritan The mustard seed The yeast The lost sheep The Pharisee and tax collector The prodigal son</p>	<p>Earth Day Deaf Awareness Day Walk to School Week School Council Staying Safe online</p>	<p>The Miracles of Jesus Jesus & the wedding at Cana Jesus meets the centurion Jesus calms the storm Healing of the paralysed man Jesus feeds 5000 people Jesus Walks on water Jesus heals 10 lepers The enormous catch of fish</p>	<p>Being proud of who we are Refugee Week Gypsy, Roma, Traveller Month How do we keep you safe in school? Fairtrade Fortnight People who inspire us</p>









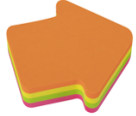
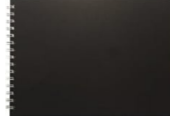
Reflective Songs	Worship Songs 1	Worship Songs 2	Loud Songs	Themed Songs	Other	Just For Fun
<p>Here I am to Worship Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God This Little Light of Mine Here I am Lord Make Me a Channel of Your Peace Think of a World Our Father (Lord's Prayer) Think of a World Without Any Flowers Be Still for the Presence of the Lord</p>	<p>10,000 Reasons Sling Shot City on a Hill Every Step My Lighthouse You Shall Go Out with Joy Shine Jesus Shine I will Sing Your Praises</p>	<p>Let Love Shine Through One More Step Along the Road I Go Give Me Oil in My Lamp Colours of Day (Light Up the Fire) Thank you, Lord,</p>	<p>Make a Melody in my Heart Sing God Who Made the Universe I Reach Up High Who's the King of the Jungle I'm Gonna Jump Up and Down Oi, Oi, We Are Gonna Praise the Lord 10, 9, 8... God is Great If I Were a Butterfly</p>	<p>World in Union I'd like to Teach the World to Sing Count on Me Build it High Stand by Me Lend a Hand Stronger Wonder</p>	<p>Sing One and a Million Love Shone Down Something Just Like This Let Love Shine Through Thank your Lucky Stars</p>	<p>Ping Pong Hey Mister Miller Gospel Medley Let's Start to Sing I'm Alive Alert Awake Enthusiastic</p>

- Notes: 1. We use Roots and Fruits 2 by Shahne Vickery as useful resource for much of our planning
 2. There is more content in this plan than there are weeks, so judgements are made for what works best for that term
 3. Some of the Wonder Wednesday themes may move between terms, depending on when a local, national or global event takes place that year

Thoughtful Thursday

These Collective Worship are classroom based and follow up on a theme or topic from Monday or Wednesday. They are an opportunity to discuss and reflect on what has been previously learnt and consider how we might bring change to ourselves, others, or the world because of what we have learnt and thought about. Most sessions will use a 'Big Question' to help generate discussion.

Most sessions follow this structure:

 <p>Gathering together...</p>	 <p>Learning from...</p>	 <p>Thinking about...</p>	 <p>Creating change...</p>	 <p>Sending out...</p>
<p>This is when the leader/s help settle those present, ready for the Collective Worship. This may be through music, words, actions, symbols. The expectation is that everyone understands this a special time.</p>	<p>This is when those present recap on what they have learnt or been shown earlier in the week, often using the visuals from the previous Collective Worship. Where appropriate, links to our vision and values are made.</p>	<p>This is when those present reflect on what they have learnt, often using the 'Big Question' from the previous Collective Worship to generate discussion. Where appropriate, links to our vision and values are made.</p>	<p>This is when those present consider what we may do differently because of what they have learnt or thought about. The expectation is that everyone contributes, often placing glass pebbles to symbolise their offering</p>	<p>This is when the leader/s draw together what has been learnt, thought and actioned and encourages those present to go out and 'do'.</p>
 <p>Getting ready</p>	 <p>Things we have learnt</p>	 <p>Questions/thoughts we have</p>	 <p>Things we will do</p>	 <p>Our class jotter</p>

We like to capture, reflect and look back on what we have shared as a class during our Collective Worship. So we use post-it notes, occasionally accompanied with a photo or collective piece of writing, to show what we have done in a large class jotter. We sometimes use this approach in RE lesson when the work has been discussion based, rather than written work. *Often the teacher or teaching assistant will be a scribe for what the children have said so they can focus on the thinking rather than the writing.*

Liturgical Colour of the Season

Anglican churches follow a liturgical calendar. This is a pattern for their worship (liturgy) through the year. As a Church school, it provides an ideal opportunity to mirror what is happening in your parish/local church. Procedures differ from church to church. You may want to discuss this with your local church. It also provides a colourful and visual way to mark the festivals throughout the church’s calendar.

Most churches will use different coloured vestments (a priest’s clothing) and altar cloths as signs of the season of the church year. In school, this can be reflected through changing the colour of the cloth on the worship/holy table or the theme of a whole display using the relevant colours.

Seasons of the Churches year:

Advent: The season of Advent marks the start of the Christian year. It is a season of expectation and preparation as the Church looks forward to celebrating the birth of Christ.

Christmas: The celebration of Christ’s coming among us at Christmas (known as the Incarnation) is one of the two poles of the Christian year, along with the story of Christ’s death and resurrection (Easter).

Epiphany: The Feast of the Epiphany, which always falls on 6th January, marks the beginning of a season which recognises Jesus to be the Son of God.

Lent: Ash Wednesday marks the start of Lent, a season of self-examination, penitence, self-denial, study, and preparation for Easter.

Easter: Easter Sunday commemorates the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. On Maundy Thursday churches will often be stripped bare of any colour, to remember that Jesus was left alone to face the bare wooden cross. Churches will remain bare until Easter Sunday.



Colour	Meanings of the colours
Purple	Used for times of preparation and waiting, the reflective seasons: Advent and Lent
White or Gold	Used for key celebrations/principle festivals: Christmas, Epiphany, Easter, and Christ the King. Represents being pure, in celebrations such as baptisms, weddings, and some funerals. White is also used for saints who did not die as martyrs
Red	To mark Saints’ days where it represents their death as a martyr, or to represent the flames of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. Red is used for Holy Week.
Green	Used during Ordinary Time or Growing Time between the main festivals and seasons This covers most of the year and many Christians believe that they can grow in faith during this season

2023 - 2024

September		October		November		December		January		February		March		April		May		June		July	
1 Fr		1 Su		1 We	All Saints' Day	1 Fr		1 Mo	New Year's Day	1 Th		1 Fr	St David	1 Mo		1 We	St Philip & St James	1 Sa		1 Mo	
2 Sa		2 Mo		2 Th		2 Sa		2 Tu		2 Fr	Candlemas	2 Sa		2 Tu		2 Th		2 Su		2 Tu	Visitation of Mary
3 Su		3 Tu		3 Fr		3 Su	Advent Sunday	3 We		3 Sa		3 Su		3 We		3 Fr		3 Mo		3 We	Thomas the Apostle
4 Mo		4 We		4 Sa		4 Mo		4 Th		4 Su		4 Mo		4 Th		4 Sa		4 Tu		4 Th	
5 Tu		5 Th		5 Su		5 Tu		5 Fr		5 Mo		5 Tu		5 Fr		5 Su		5 We		5 Fr	
6 We		6 Fr		6 Mo		6 We	St Nicholas	6 Sa	The Epiphany	6 Tu		6 We		6 Sa		6 Mo		6 Th		6 Sa	
7 Th		7 Sa		7 Tu		7 Th		7 Su	Baptism of Jesus	7 We		7 Th		7 Su		7 Tu		7 Fr		7 Su	
8 Fr		8 Su		8 We		8 Fr		8 Mo		8 Th		8 Fr		8 Mo	Annunciation	8 We		8 Sa		8 Mo	
9 Sa		9 Mo		9 Th		9 Sa		9 Tu		9 Fr		9 Sa		9 Tu		9 Th	Ascension Day	9 Su		9 Tu	
10 Su		10 Tu		10 Fr		10 Su		10 We		10 Sa		10 Su		10 We		10 Fr		10 Mo		10 We	
11 Mo		11 We		11 Sa	Armistice Day	11 Mo		11 Th		11 Su		11 Mo		11 Th		11 Sa		11 Tu	St Barnabas	11 Th	
12 Tu		12 Th		12 Su	Remembrance	12 Tu		12 Fr		12 Mo		12 Tu		12 Fr		12 Su		12 We		12 Fr	
13 We		13 Fr		13 Mo		13 We		13 Sa		13 Tu	Shrove Tuesday	13 We		13 Sa		13 Mo		13 Th		13 Sa	
14 Th	Holy Cross Day	14 Sa		14 Tu		14 Th		14 Su		14 We	Ash Wednesday	14 Th		14 Su		14 Tu	St Mattias	14 Fr		14 Su	
15 Fr		15 Su		15 We		15 Fr		15 Mo		15 Th		15 Fr		15 Mo		15 We		15 Sa		15 Mo	
16 Sa		16 Mo		16 Th		16 Sa		16 Tu		16 Fr		16 Sa		16 Tu		16 Th		16 Su		16 Tu	
17 Su		17 Tu		17 Fr		17 Su		17 We		17 Sa		17 Su	St Patrick	17 We		17 Fr		17 Mo		17 We	
18 Mo		18 We	St Luke	18 Sa		18 Mo		18 Th		18 Su		18 Mo		18 Th		18 Sa		18 Tu		18 Th	
19 Tu		19 Th		19 Su		19 Tu		19 Fr		19 Mo		19 Tu	Joseph of Nazareth	19 Fr		19 Su	Pentecost	19 We		19 Fr	
20 We		20 Fr		20 Mo		20 We		20 Sa		20 Tu		20 We		20 Sa		20 Mo		20 Th		20 Sa	
21 Th	St Matthew	21 Sa		21 Tu		21 Th	Thomas the Apostle	21 Su		21 We		21 Th		21 Su		21 Tu		21 Fr		21 Su	
22 Fr		22 Su		22 We		22 Fr		22 Mo		22 Th		22 Fr		22 Mo		22 We		22 Sa		22 Mo	Mary Magdalene
23 Sa		23 Mo		23 Th		23 Sa		23 Tu		23 Fr		23 Sa		23 Tu	St George	23 Th		23 Su		23 Tu	
24 Su		24 Tu		24 Fr		24 Su	Christmas Eve	24 We		24 Sa		24 Su	Palm Sunday	24 We		24 Fr		24 Mo	Birth of John the Baptist	24 We	
25 Mo		25 We		25 Sa		25 Mo	Christmas Day	25 Th	Conversation of St Paul	25 Su		25 Mo		25 Th	St Mark the Evangelist	25 Sa		25 Tu		25 Th	St James
26 Tu		26 Th		26 Su	Christ the King	26 Tu	St Stephen	26 Fr		26 Mo		26 Tu		26 Fr		26 Su	Trinity Sunday	26 We		26 Fr	
27 We		27 Fr		27 Mo		27 We	John the Evangelist	27 Sa		27 Tu		27 We		27 Sa		27 Mo		27 Th		27 Sa	
28 Th		28 Sa	St Simon & St Jude	28 Tu		28 Th	Holy Innocents	28 Su		28 We		28 Th	Maundy Thursday	28 Su		28 Tu	Pentecost	28 Fr		28 Su	
29 Fri	St Michael and All Angels	29 Su		29 We		29 Fr		29 Mo				29 Fr	Good Friday	29		29 We		29 Sa	St Peter & St Paul	29 Mo	
30 Sa		30 Mo		30 Th	St Andrew	30 Sa		30 Tu				30 Sa		30		30 Th	Corpus Christi	30 Su		30 Tu	
		31 Tu				31 Su		31 We				31 Su	Easter Day			31 Fr	Visit of Mary to Elizabeth			31 We	

Colours play an important part in the worship of the Church, and they change according to the seasons of the Church year. Colours are a primary source of symbolism and communicate to worshippers much about the nature of the lessons heard during the Liturgy of the Word (which are themed according to the seasons), and about what is done during worship. The liturgical colours given are not mandatory. Traditional or local use is often observed.

The Principal Feasts which are to be observed are:

- Christmas Day
- The Epiphany
- The Presentation of Christ in the Temple (Candlemas)
- The Annunciation of Our Lord to the Blessed Virgin Mary
- Easter Day
- Ascension Day
- Pentecost (Whit Sunday)
- Trinity Sunday
- All Saints' Day
- *Any significant saints linked to your local church/community*

External links:
 A free Church of England app called 'Lectionary' is available on Apple and Android devices. You can use this to access Bible readings as well as check the current liturgical colour.

<https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/worship-texts-and-resources/common-worship/churchs-year/rules>
<https://www.imaginer.co.uk/church-year/>
<https://www.interfaith.org.uk/resources/religious-festivals>
<http://www.going4growth.com/growth-through-the-year/colours-of-the-church-year>

Purple	Gold	White	Red	Green
Preparation and Penance	Joy and Celebration	Purity	Sacrifice	Hope, Life, and Growth
Used in Advent and Lent	Used for special days and celebrations, such as Easter Day and Christmas Day	Used in the seasons of Easter and Christmas, and for saints who were not martyrs	Used during Pentecost, Remembrance Sunday and the Apostles and saints who were martyrs	Used throughout Ordinary Time – Growing Time

Suggestions for the use of liturgical colours in school worship:

- Use different coloured tablecloths, pieces of fabric to cover or place on your worship table
- Create an interactive display making a large circle (pie chart) of the Church's year in different colours - add information and photos about the season of the churches year as they are celebrated and marked in school
- Ask clergy to show and share the vestments they use in church with pupils – many clergy have significant items, such as ordination stoles – visit local churches to compare how they use the liturgical colours
- Pupils design altar frontals to reflect the different seasons
- Pupils write special prayers for each season that are used in collective worship
- With younger pupils read *The Path That Runs by the Church: A Year in the Life of a Village School* by Lois Rock and Louise Comfort

