

**ST MARY'S CE PRIMARY SCHOOL BENTWORTH
COLLECTIVE WORSHIP**

Date of implementation: March 2026

Date for review: March 2028



Ownership: Full Governing Body	Linked to: SMSC Policy. This policy underpins the ethos of our school. Governors Visits to School and Governing Body Minutes reflecting evaluation and support by our Foundation Governors
Review committee: Education Committee, Headteacher, Deputy Headteacher	
Communicated to: Staff and Parents	
Evaluation: (inc links to evidence) Forms the basis for our value system and is the core of our philosophy that Every Child Matters	

"To worship is to quicken the conscience by the holiness of God, to feed the mind with the truth of God, to purge the imagination by the beauty of God, to open the heart to the love of God, to devote the will to the purpose of God."
William Temple, Archbishop of Canterbury 1942-44

John 13:34-35

"... love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another, then everyone will know that you are my disciples"

To show that the *LOVE* of God is at the heart of all we do

To *RESPECT* the beliefs of all worshippers

**To reflect that we *BELONG* to a Church school, to the Christian faith
and to the family of God**

Worship in our school should:

As worship:

- Should at its simplest create a time and space where we can come closer to God and God can come closer to us
- Be distinctively Christian
- Use and promote the clearly identified core Christian values of the school
- Have **Integrity** as acts of Anglican worship whilst being **Invitational, Inclusive** and **inspirational**
- Be based on Biblical text or themes
- Enable participants to develop an understanding of Jesus Christ and a Christian understanding of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit
- Be central in importance to the life of our school community, which is part of a wider community that embraces the whole world
- Reflect on human existence
- Use the seasons and festivals of the Christian year
- Develop understanding of Anglican traditions and the practice of the local parish church

For people:

- Develop personal spirituality within the school community through a range of experiences including individual and collective prayer
- Engage pupils and adults with collective worship, making it relevant and transformational to the lives of members of the whole school community
- Celebrate the God given gifts and talents of individuals and the whole school community
- Make a significant contribution to the overall spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of members of the school community
- Consider the beliefs and values of others, especially those within the school community
- Raise aspirations of individuals and the school community

To comply:

- Reflect the trust deed
- Be clearly outlined in the school website and documentation
- Involve learners and adults in planning, leading and evaluating collective worship
- Be monitored and evaluated for the impact it has on the school community by Foundation Governors

Aims and purpose

- To promote the joy of worship as engaging, inspiring and transformative.
- To develop spirituality, morality, social and cultural values
- Sometimes to provide a peaceful environment enabling stillness, reflection and prayer

- Sometimes to be noisy and joyous with singing, music, dance, drama etc
- To give an opportunity to acquire a secure knowledge of the Christian faith as revealed in the Bible
- To understand, celebrate and develop children's knowledge of Christian beliefs, celebrations, traditions and religious festivals in the Anglican Church's year
- To appreciate that people, cultures and beliefs differ and to demonstrate respect, tolerance and generosity towards them
- To develop pupils' sense of self-worth and to provide opportunities to celebrate achievements
- To develop a caring attitude to others and a sense of community and loyalty.
- To provide opportunities for children to plan, lead, contribute to, monitor and evaluate collective worship
- To invite clergy of the parish, other lay members of the parish and other Christian leaders in the community [as are acceptable to the parish church] to lead worship

How we achieve our aims

We aim to promote collective acts of worship, which are rich, meaningful experiences that are appropriate and significant to the pupil's needs, age, development and interest by:

- Creating a sense of occasion and reverence following the 4 central attributes of worship
- Arranging worship at different places when possible, different times with different people and groupings, involving all members of the school community at some time
- Planning and linking themes which focus on a particular idea/concept, ie the liturgical year; RE curriculum, festivals and celebrations, within Christian and other faith traditions, our Christian values, celebrating achievements, good work and behaviour
- Using a wide range of resources, devotional aids, artefacts (from religious and secular sources), music, art, drama and external speakers to engage children's interest
- Encourage children to participate and experience different styles of worship, eg prayer, praise, silence, rituals, and become familiar with the language of worship, Biblical readings and liturgy
- Providing opportunities for pupils to reflect, contemplate on their own thoughts, feelings and beliefs
- Using the centrality of prayer – personal silent prayer, personal shared prayers, collective prayers, writing prayers
- Providing opportunities that develop pupils' awareness of what is beautiful, good, wonderful, awesome and puzzling in life experience
- Involving pupils and members of the wider community to participate in collective worship and activities within the parish

- Presenting and creating displays that promote and enhance spiritual ideas, thoughts and questions

Central attributes of an act of worship

The School will endeavour to fulfil the legal requirements of 1988 Education Reform Act in conjunction with School's trust deed, by holding 'an act of collective worship every day'.

During collective worship, whether in the hall, classroom or outside, we will apply the following 'central attributes' of worship:

Gathering Making special and significant this part of the day through appropriate symbol and ceremony. On some occasions, children will begin by coming into worship singing a worship song previously learnt in hymn singing

Engaging Using the best available techniques to stimulate interest in the content

Responding Ensuring there is time and opportunity for individual, group reflection and thought, so those attending can respond in a variety of ways. Each half term will focus on a different Christian value

Sending Summarising the worship in a meaningful short message used to create an opportunity for those attending to implement the ideas covered and to conclude the worship

School specific organisation

Monday Whole school worship led by the HT/DHT

Tuesday Whole school worship focusing on hymn singing led by teacher

Wednesday Whole school worship led by teachers

Thursday Whole school worship led by teachers

Friday Whole school worship led by HT and attended by parents, governors, visitors as a celebration of the work of the week. This will also include achievements linked to our school values. When there is not a whole school worship, teachers will lead circle time worship in their classrooms. This enables discussion of the week's worships at age-appropriate levels.

The centrality of prayer

During the collective worship there will be a time for response and reflection, to ponder on a question, statement or thought. This may also be reflected in a prayer, offered spontaneously by a pupil or adult, read out or recited. This prayer can be displayed and used in class and school reflective areas so that:

- Children understand the nature and purpose of prayer
- Children understand the part prayer may play in their lives and the life of the school community
- Prayer contributes to the spiritual development of individuals and the whole school community
- Children understand the TSP format for exploring prayer (Thank You, Sorry, Please)

There will also be appropriate opportunities for prayer and other worship activities, including reflection, outside of collective worship.

Each class has a 'reflective area' to engage and promote individual pupils and adults, as well as designated special spaces around the school.

Legal status of collective worship

All maintained schools in England must provide a daily act of collective worship.

In a Church of England School, worship must be in line with the Trust Deed of the school and will reflect the traditions of the Church of England, i. the Anglican tradition.

Right to withdraw

Parents have the right to withdraw their child from the daily act of collective worship without giving a reason for doing so. Schools must comply with this wish and must ensure a duty of care for pupils who are withdrawn from collective worship.

Monitoring and evaluation

Monitoring and evaluation of collective acts of worship, is undertaken by pupils, staff, and governors.

Pupils are also involved in evaluating collective worship through pupil conferences.

All leaders of collective worship are asked to evaluate continuously, reflect after every worship, to develop and improve their practice.