

Shurdington CofE Primary
Be the **BEST** we can be, through love.
Believe Enjoy Succeed Together

'Love God and love your neighbour as you love yourself.'
Matthew 22, verses 37 and 39.

Collective Worship Policy

Church of England policies are written in the spirit of Christian values.

Agreed by Governors: November 2025

Review Date: November 2027

1. Introduction

Collective worship is central to the life and purposes of the Church school and is fundamental to the development of its Christian foundation, vision, values and ethos. The Senior Leadership Team along with the RE co-ordinator will be responsible for establishing policy in consultation with the governing body. Policy and practice is informed by the Trust Deed and Ethos Statement of the school as well as the Inclusive Invitational Inspiring [Guidance Document](#) from the Church of England.

Collective worship provides a space and a place for the telling of the Christian story, the mutual giving and receiving of worth as well as times of reflection and prayer. Collective worship should be inspirational and transformational and is 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. Our collective worship is invitational, no one will be forced to sing, dance or pray but will be invited to join in if they wish.

Our Church school is a community which is inspired by the Christian understanding of God as Trinity. God the Father, the source of all being and life; God the Son, who reveals God's love by his life, death and resurrection; and God the Holy Spirit, who makes Christ known in the world. The fundamental part that worship plays in the life of the school requires that it is given the highest priority and there is an expectation that all members of the community (children and all staff) will be present other than in the most exceptional circumstances.

2. Legal Framework

There must be a daily act of collective worship for all pupils that takes account of their age and aptitude. The 1988 Education Reform Act states parents have the right to withdraw children from collective worship and suitable arrangements should be made to accommodate these children. However, as collective worship occupies such a central place in the life of the Church school, there is an expectation that parents wishing to request a withdrawal will meet with the head teacher to discuss their concerns and requirements.

The governors in a Church school have the responsibility for ensuring that the school meets the requirements for worship detailed in the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Evaluation Document. They are also tasked with monitoring and evaluating the impact worship on the school community in consultation with the head teacher.

3. Aims

Collective worship in a Church of England school aims to:

- Explore the school's vision and how that underpins shared values and virtues. In doing so, it will reflect on moral values such as compassion, gratitude, justice, humility, forgiveness and reconciliation; and develop virtues such as resilience, determination and creativity that develop character and contribute to academic progress.
- 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.
- Offer the opportunity, without compulsion, to all pupils and adults to grow spiritually through experiences of prayer, praise, stillness, worship and reflection.
- 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, festivals and, where appropriate, the Eucharist.
- Enable pupils to develop skills through engaging in the planning, leading and evaluation of collective worship in ways that lead to improving practice.

4. Organisation

Worship is planned over a 2-week cycle. Each cycle will focus on an aspect of the Termly Vision theme

<i>Day</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Leading Teacher</i>	<i>Nature of Worship</i>	<i>Participants</i>
Monday	10.30-10.50	HT or SLT	Introduction of unit/vision focus	Whole School
Tuesday	10.30-10.50	HT or CT	Open the Book	Whole School
Wednesday	10.30-10.50	CT	Praise	Whole School
Thursday	10.30-10.50	HT	Visitor Worship - Teaching on value	Whole School
Friday	10.30-10.50	CT	Class Reflection	Whole School
Monday	10.30-10.50	HT or SLT	Teaching on vision/value	Whole School
Tuesday	10.30-10.50	HT or CT	Open the Book	Whole School
Wednesday	10.30-10.50	CT	Praise	Whole School
Thursday	10.30-10.50	HT or Worship Team	Visitor Worship or Worship Team - Teaching on value	Whole School
Friday	9:10-9:30	HT	Celebration	Whole School including parents

An information leaflet for visitors is produced by the school (Appendix 2)

In addition to the above table, each class will have the opportunity to produce Worship which will celebrate achievement and class learning. The festivals of Harvest, Christmas, Easter and Pentecost will also be part of our acts of worship. Some Worship will take place at St. Paul's Church or the Cathedral. The Worship Team will plan and lead their own act of worship at least once a term. They will also lead worship for all main Christian festivals.

5. Planning

The rota for leading worship is made by the Headteacher every term. Acts of worship are planned using various resources including the 'Values for Life' scheme and the Diocesan 'Root and Fruits' pack. The Worship Team plan worship with the Headteacher or RE co-ordinator.

6. Setting

Most acts of worship take place in the school hall although some will take place in other parts of the school including classrooms, our Spiritual Gardens or outside. There is a worship table at the front of the hall with the liturgical colour of the season of the church with a cross, candle, Bible and other Christian symbols. Three candles are lit at the start of worship. The Peace is used to welcome the children and 'In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit' is said whilst the three candles are lit. A blessing is said to end worship. A PowerPoint is produced each term with any songs and resources that maybe needed linked to the home page displaying our value. Worship music is played on the way in and out of worship.

7. Inclusion

Worship is inclusive and no one is made to sing or pray – they are only invited to. The following adaptations are made for children with SEN needs who may find it difficult to access worship:

Universal (all children)	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3 (children with highest needs)
This includes, but is not limited to: • Use of ear defenders • Flexible seating arrangements	• Chn can sit on chairs with teaching staff • Chn can use a bespoke space at the back of the hall	• Chn can use the corridor space by Y4-6 during worship where they will be supported by school staff and a member of SLT. There will be a range of worship related items to access including colouring linked to the act of worship, worship based jigsaws, etc. The doors between the hall and corridors will be open allowing chn and staff using this space to still be able to hear worship.	• A videoed act of collective worship will be playing in the Y6 classroom linked, where possible, to the main worship. Chn will be supported by school staff and a member of SLT. This will be planned by the HT alongside the longer term worship plan. Parents will be informed if chn are using this regularly.

8. Monitoring and Evaluation

An evaluation folder is kept, detailing children's comments on the Worship undertaken, as well as staff evaluations and short term evaluations.

Signed:

Signed:

Headteacher
Date:

Chair of Governors
Date:



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'Love God and love your neighbour as you love yourself' Matthew 22, verses 37-39

Worship Long Term Plan 2024-2025						
	Autumn Term 1	Autumn Term 2	Spring Term 1	Spring Term 2	Summer Term 1	Summer Term 2
Vision theme	Love God	Love our neighbour	Love yourself	Love God	Love our neighbour	Love yourself
Values that support theme	Love, Thankfulness, Respect, Reverence	Love, Generosity, Compassion, Service,	Love, Courage, Perseverance	Love, Justice, Trust,	Love, Forgiveness, Friendship, Truthfulness	Love, Courage, Perseverance
Liturgical year areas to focus on	Harvest	Remembrance Day Advent Christmas	Epiphany	Lent Easter	Ascension	Pentecost
Other	Eco week	Anti-bullying	Spirituality		Reflection spaces	Reflection spaces

Appendix 2: Visitor booklet

We are delighted that you will be visiting our school to lead our Collective Worship. Thank you for supporting our school

At Shurdington Church of England Primary School we value our daily acts of Collective Worship. Through them we identify, affirm and celebrate those ideals and values that we hold to be of central importance to us as a worshipping community.

As in all schools with a Church of England foundation, Collective Worship should be in accordance with the Trust Deed which means being consistent with the faith and practice of the Church of England. It is important, however, for visitors to be aware that children in our school come from a range of faith and non-faith backgrounds. We therefore ask that those who lead Collective Worship take account of this in the preparation and delivery of their material.

Worship is planned over a two-week cycle and each child at Shurdington is involved in an act of worship every day.

Day	Time	Leading Teacher	Nature of Worship
Monday	10.30-10.50	HT or SLT	Introduction of value focus
Tuesday	10.30-10.50	HT or CT	Open the Book
Wednesday	10.30-10.50	CT	Praise
Thursday	10.30-10.50	HT	Visitor Worship - Teaching on value
Friday	10.30-10.50	CT	Class Reflection
Monday	10.30-10.50	HT or SLT	Teaching on value/Class Reflection
Tuesday	10.30-10.50	HT or CT	Open the Book
Wednesday	10.30-10.50	CT	Praise
Thursday	10.30-10.50	HT or Worship Team	Visitor Worship or Worship Team - Teaching on value
Friday	9:10-9:30	HT	Celebration

Our school vision (see reverse) is based on Matthew 22:37 and 39 'Love God and love your neighbour as you love yourself.' This is central to all we do at Shurdington.

Each year all members of our 'Shurdy family' pick 3 core Christian values to focus on. You will be notified of our core value and the weekly focus before your visit.

Visitor Worship starts at 10:30 on a Thursday. The hall will be free from 10:00 should you wish to set up.

On arrival at school please report to the office where you will be asked to sign the visitors' book and wear a visitor identification badge.

If you require any special resources or equipment e.g. web based activity or CD player, please let us know in advance and we will endeavour to have them ready when you arrive.

The children enter the hall class by class with their teacher and when everyone is ready to begin the worship a member of staff will introduce you to the children. Whilst the children enter and leave, music is played and children will be invited to sing.

We always start with the 'peace' and lighting of 3 candles, a member of staff will lead this. We ask that your act of worship should last no longer than fifteen minutes and that it includes a short opportunity for quiet reflection on one aspect of your theme. If you would like to lead a prayer, please do so but if not a member of staff will do this and introduce a song to use as praise. If you have a song or hymn, which is especially appropriate that you would like to be sung, please let us know in good time. We always end worship with a blessing.

Visitors are warmly invited to have a quick wander around school after worship, accompanied by members of our school's Worship team; giving you chance to interact with children and staff. This should only take around 15 minutes but do feel free to leave straight after assembly if you wish, remembering to sign out and return your badge to the office.

Our vision

Be the **BEST** we can be, through love

Believe

The Christian faith and values are at the heart of our school family and in everything we do, as we strive to serve all.

Enjoy

Our school is a safe, exciting environment that provides broad and inspiring opportunities and experiences.

Succeed

We support all members of our school family in reaching their full potential for lifelong learning.

Together

Our school family grows together within a happy, caring environment.

'Love God and love your neighbour as you love yourself.'

Taken from Matthew 22, verses 37 and 39.



*Worship Visitor
Information*