



Kirkstall St Stephen's

Collective Worship Policy

June 2026

Kirkstall St Stephen's Primary School

Collective Worship

Our school vision

We are cherished – we aim to create a caring environment where all children and staff feel welcome, valued, supported and respected.

We are challenged- through a stimulating and challenging learning environment, where achievements are recognised but it is also safe to fail, increasing our resilience.

We are children of God – we recognise the value of each and every individual, encouraging everyone's unique spiritual development and potential.

Our Ethos Statement

Our school ethos is represented by the KSS Values Tree; showing children's growth as a tree planted firmly into God's sustaining love and rooted in our school values of: trust, justice, perseverance, respect, thankfulness and forgiveness.

This is based on Jeremiah 17:7-8

"But blessed is the one who trusts in the LORD,
whose confidence is in him.

They will be like a tree planted by the water
that sends out its roots by the stream.

It does not fear when heat comes;
its leaves are always green.

It has no worries in a year of drought
and never fails to bear fruit."

CONTENTS

Rationale

Collective Worship occupies a place of vital importance in the life of our school and is a key element of its Christian foundation. It is a time in the school day when children and staff meet together in a calm and peaceful atmosphere and where all present are given the opportunity to reflect and participate. It is regarded as quality time and something special within the school day.

We believe that acts of Collective Worship must be exceptionally well planned, imaginative and inspiring, involving high levels of participation by individuals and groups of learners and evoke an extremely positive response from all those attending. We aim to be pupil-centred, relate acts of Collective Worship to our pupils' own experiences and take account of their age and family backgrounds.

Our Christian Collective Worship honours the Anglican tradition, however we are highly sensitive to the beliefs and traditions of those of all faiths and none and we take care to ensure that acts of worship provide for their spiritual and moral development as well as that of Christian believers.

Objectives of Collective Worship

Through collective worship in our school we aim to:

- provide an experience of worship that will allow children to respond to the presence, power and peace of God
- introduce children to Christian language and symbolism and the cycle of the church year
- explore a variety of ways of praying and introduce children to some well-known Christian prayers, e.g. Lord's Prayer
- enable our pupils to explore a variety of forms of worship, reflecting the breadth of the Christian tradition including the worldwide Anglican church, enabling those pupils and staff with a religious commitment to deepen their experience of worship and allowing those without a religious commitment to begin to appreciate what worship means for others.
- strengthen and support the school community giving expression to and reaffirming the Christian values of the school
- celebrate the gifts that each child brings to the school community, recognising the uniqueness of each individual made in the image of God
- encourage children to reflect on the puzzling questions that life poses and to respond to the wonder and mystery of the world around them
- foster concern and care for others within the school and the wider world
- foster an appreciation of the created world and an awareness of our responsibility for it.
- promote a common sense of ethos and shared values

- foster an atmosphere in which God can be spoken about naturally and without apology.

Equal opportunities

As in all areas of the curriculum, all pupils have the opportunity to participate in all aspects of collective worship regardless of their family background or religious beliefs. We want to give them opportunities to share what is important to them, to use all their senses, develop their imagination, and experience a warm, caring and respectful atmosphere, conducive to worship. We want to affirm their personal worth and responsibility. The collective worship committee includes children from different faith backgrounds and experience. We also encourage children to take responsibility for preparing and leading acts of worship.

Withdrawal

Parents may ask for their child to be totally or partially withdrawn from Collective Worship in accordance with the Education Act. They are asked to contact the head teacher to make arrangements. No reasons have to be given but parents are encouraged to discuss with the head teacher the issues concerning withdrawal. Children who are withdrawn are fully supervised in another part of the school. Our approach to Collective Worship, however, has been constructed in the hope that parents will rarely, if ever, wish to exercise their right of withdrawal.

Special Educational Needs

To ensure Collective Worship is fully inclusive, account has been taken of those with Special Educational needs. Planning ensures that a variety of approaches are used i.e. kinaesthetic, oral and visual. Planning also aims to engage all pupils in reflection, encouraging children to wonder and question. This is used to extend and challenge pupils.

Provision and Organisation

The pattern for Collective Worship is as follows:

Monday	Whole school	Head teacher	Hall	9.10am
Tuesday	Whole school	Clergy/teacher led	Hall	9.10am
Wednesday	Whole school	Visitors/pupil led	Hall	9.10 am
Thursday	Whole school	Pupil/parent/staff led	Hall	usually 9.10 am
Friday	Whole school	Head teacher	Hall	9.10am

(Also Friday reflections for use in classroom)

Parents are encouraged to attend the services we hold in church i.e. Harvest, Christmas, Easter and the Leavers' service. Governors are welcome to attend any of the acts of worship.

Planning is undertaken on a half-termly basis following different themes. The Collective Worship crew make suggestions for the planning. Monday collective worship introduces the topic for the week and this is then explored in more detail for the rest of the week. In KS2 class collective worship is planned by different groups of children who then take it in turns to deliver it to their class or sometimes to other year groups. There is opportunity for a spontaneous topic or occasion should the situation arise. The half-termly framework of themes is displayed in the staffroom and the theme of the week is displayed in the hall.

Assessment, Monitoring and Evaluation

Assessment, monitoring and evaluation of Collective Worship is carried out by the head teacher, foundation governor, the co-ordinator and Collective Worship Crew through:

- checking that practice matches aims and objectives
- observation of children's attentiveness and level of interest
- feedback from pupils, both written and verbal, including the collective worship crew
- comments from parents, visitors and governors
- self-evaluation by the teacher
- feedback from staff in staff meetings
- looking at the extent of the influence upon pupils' attitudes and behaviour throughout the school day.

As a result of this monitoring and evaluation adjustments are made to the planning for the following term.

Role of Governors

The Governing Body is responsible for formulating, agreeing and adopting this policy:

Governors will then on an ongoing basis:

- ensure that the Foundation of the school is honoured and that the Collective Worship policy is firmly based upon the intentions set down in the Trust Deed (see appendix)
- ensure that the Collective Worship Policy is put into practice and monitored by the appropriate Governor

Staff Responsibilities

The head teacher ensures that the School Development Plan includes a section on Collective Worship which gives an indication of intentions and arrangements, and how this feeds into the school's continual self-evaluation process.

The Collective Worship Co-ordinator has responsibility for managing the worship on a day to day basis, ensuring that all legal requirements are complied with. Specifically:

- to write the school's policy for Collective Worship in consultation with the head teacher and foundation governors
- to review the policy on a regular basis
- to plan an overall balanced programme of worship throughout the year
- to draw up rotas
- to involve colleagues, pupils and visitors in worship
- to co-ordinate the collective worship crew
- to work closely with colleagues from church
- to advise on planning, ideas and resources
- to be responsible for ordering, maintaining and displaying resources
- to administer budget for Collective Worship
- to ensure monitoring and evaluation is taking place
- to report to head teacher and governors
- to keep up to date with recent publications, attend Diocesan courses and disseminate information to staff
- to liaise with the incumbent, governing body and Diocesan officers on matters relating to Collective Worship
- to ensure that the school is up to date with SIAMS inspection framework

Resources

Each class has an area in their classroom that is the focus for Collective Worship, for example a display or small prayer table. This provides an opportunity for children to engage, reflect or pray. Each class has a Bible and a significant object to mark the start and

end of Collective Worship. There are books available to help children plan their own acts of worship for the class.

The altar is used as a focal point for acts of Collective Worship in the hall with the appropriate colour of the church year displayed. Hymn music stored on an i-pod. A variety of artefacts (e.g. crosses, symbols) and resource books are kept at the back of year 2.

Conclusion

At Kirkstall St. Stephen's Collective Worship is highly valued and every effort is made to ensure that all children and staff take part in high quality acts of worship. Worship may contain many elements but we seek to specifically ensure that the act of Collective Worship is a learning experience as well as a spiritual encounter.

Appendix 1

Trust Deed Statement

"Recognising its historic foundation, the school will preserve and develop its religious character in accordance with the principles of the Church at parish and diocesan level.

The school aims to serve its community by providing education of the highest quality within the context of Christian belief and practice. It encourages an understanding of the meaning and significance of faith and promotes Christian values through the experience it offers all pupils"