



Oare Church of England Primary
School

**Collective Worship
Policy**

2026 - 2027

Date of approval July 26
Approved by Beck Stubbs
Review date July 27



Objective

As a church school, we hold to a vision that worship is an affirmation and celebration of our Christian ethos where staff and children have the opportunity to learn, worship and grow in their understanding of God and of themselves. It is not simply a statutory duty.

In our school, we want to see Collective Worship enable pupils and staff to gather together to respond to the presence, power and peace of God through prayer, reflection, singing, celebrating and sharing feelings.

Worship should enable participants to develop an understanding of the Christian belief in God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. We recognise that not all staff or children have a Christian faith. We welcome everyone to Collective Worship and offer it as a shared space for reflection and spiritual growth where our communities grow together in love and respect.

Aims

As a church school, our worship will always be based on the Christian faith but will include reference to other faiths and belief systems.

The aims and purpose of collective worship are:

- To give everyone in our community the space to become more sensitive to the wonders and mysteries of the world around them.
- To give everyone in our community the space to reflect on their own existence and the puzzling questions which life poses.
- To encourage children to encounter various kinds of language and symbols and to express their own feelings through them.
- To strengthen our school and wider community, to show we care and know we belong.
- To think deeply about and reaffirm and practise the values of the school community.
- To celebrate and give thanks for achievements within the school, local and international community and occasions of significance, including festivals.
- To foster and enable a concern for the needs of others – a recognition of the vulnerability of self and others and the potential for courageous advocacy and care.
- To strengthen awareness of the diversity of belief within our own society and across the world.
- To provide everyone in our community with an invitation to:
 - praise and reach out to God
 - experience stillness and quiet
 - respond to Christian language and symbolism
 - experience a variety of forms of prayer and meditation. These might include: praise, seeking forgiveness, asking on behalf of self and others, and quiet reflection.
 - helping pupils begin to understand the nature and purpose of worship

Legal Requirements

All schools must take note of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 (Section 70 and Schedule 20) which requires that:

1. All registered pupils (apart from those whose parents exercise the right to withdrawal) must on each school day take part in an act of Collective Worship.

2. The daily act of Collective Worship should be conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Trust Deeds of the school and the ethos statement in the Instrument of Government, and should be consistent with the beliefs and practices of the Church of England.
3. All acts of Collective Worship in Church schools must be Christian in character. Pupils can be grouped in various ways for worship such as the whole school, year groups, tutor groups, classes, or other combinations.
4. Acts of worship must be appropriate for the pupils in that they should take account of the pupils' age, aptitude and family backgrounds.
5. The daily act of Collective Worship will normally take place on the school premises but all schools may hold their act of Collective Worship elsewhere (e.g. the local Parish Church) on special occasions.
6. Responsibility for the arrangement of Collective Worship in a Church of England school rests with the governing body in consultation with the Headteacher. Foundation Governors have a special role in ensuring the Collective Worship is linked to the Trust Deeds.
7. The Headteacher has a responsibility to ensure all arrangements for Collective Worship are secured

Approach

- a) Collective worship seeks to build links with all dimensions of the curriculum, particularly making global links to promote equality and celebrate diversity. We also seek links to PSHE and other planned learning.
- b) Opportunity will be given for pupils to reflect individually on spiritual issues.
- c) Worship is accessible to all children who attend – where possible worship is tailored so that all children can understand and make a contribution.
- d) If children have individual needs which conflict with aspects of the structure of collective worship, adaptations and adjustments will be made, including personalised opportunities at different times in the school day.

We seek to provide a worship space which is attractive and well prepared with thought given to colour, space, seating, ambience and music.

We foster links with the local parish Church, involving clergy in leading / joining us for Collective Worship and providing coherence with worship in church.

Throughout the year, we aim to visit the parish church regularly for worship times as part of the Christian calendar and we also offer the opportunity for all children to experience worship in the wider church e.g. at the cathedral

We aim for our Collective Worship to be creative and to inspire pupils into action. Daily acts of worship occur for the whole school every day, with different leaders and areas of focus. Our children regularly take part in church services, and the local Church of England Vicar comes in to lead Worship in school.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	Collective Worship with Open the Book	Collective Worship	Collective Worship	Singing Worship: Singing	Celebration Collective Worship

Where?	Hall	Hall	Hall	Hall	Hall
Who?	Local church Open the Book team	Principal	Clergy or church representative	Principal	Principal and parents invited
When?	8:45am	8:45am	8:45am	8:45am	8:45am

Our acts of collective worship have the following characteristics (abbreviated to B.L.E.S.S.E.D)

BIBLICAL- the Bible is used to encounter the teachings of Jesus and as a sourcebook for inspiration and learning. Pupils are made familiar with the Lord's Prayer, psalms and other verses of scripture.

LITURGICAL - aspects of Anglican liturgy, such as greetings, are used to create a framework for worship; pupils are also introduced to a variety of well-known prayers – many of which express central beliefs of Christians throughout the ages.

EUCHARISTIC – we introduce children to the central act of Anglican worship, either in RE or through our own school celebration with the local priest.

SEASONAL - we observe the cycle of the Anglican year including celebrations of the major Christian festivals.

SYMBOLIC – we use Christian symbols as a focus for reflection.

ECUMENICAL – we work with other local Christian denominations.

DIVERSE – we provide opportunities to discover the variety of worship in Anglican churches e.g. through work with our link diocese of Kagera, through valuing both meditation and silence, dance, prayer, reflection, story, quiet songs and louder expressions of praise, etc.

Recording and Evaluation

At Oare, all acts of worship are planned and stored on our staff drive. The Subject Leader will monitor Collective Worship and it will be evaluated by staff and pupils.

The Collective Worship will be evaluated by:

1. Discussion at staff and governor meetings (minutes to be kept with the records). This discussion will include:
 - Review of content and methodology;
 - Suitability for age, aptitude and ability, variety of styles, groupings, leadership;
 - Links to curriculum and classroom experience;
 - Resources and budget;
 - INSET
2. Attendance at worship by foundation governors for monitoring purposes;
3. Ensuring that the requirements of law are being met.
4. Work with the Excalibur Church Schools Flourishing group for support and challenge.

Resources

Videos, slides, books and artefacts may be used during the Collective Worship. Visitors leading an act of worship will be given precise instructions concerning age and ability of pupils, purpose of occasion and appropriate delivery (content and material used).

Right of Withdrawal

Parents retain the right to withdraw their children. Parents wishing to exercise this right should put their requests in writing to the Principal. Teachers' rights are also safeguarded.

Responsibility for Review

Collective worship lead – Nina Pugh (Associate Principal) and Beck Stubbs (Exec. Principal)

