

St Peter's CE Primary School

Collective Worship Policy



2026-27

Policy status	September 2026
Policy lead	Headteacher / Collective Worship Lead
Approved by	Local School Board / Governing Body
Review date	September 2027
School	St Peter's CE Primary School
Trust	Galileo Multi Academy Trust

We have faith in our children.

1. Purpose and Christian foundation

Collective worship is central to the life and Christian character of St Peter's CE Primary School. It provides a daily opportunity for pupils and adults to gather, encounter the Christian faith, reflect on the school's theologically rooted Christian vision and values, and consider how these shape life together and service to others.

As a Church of England school, our worship is distinctively Christian and Anglican while being welcoming to the whole school community. It is planned to be inclusive, invitational and inspiring, enabling pupils and adults of all faiths and none to participate with integrity and without coercion.

Collective worship is distinct from ordinary assembly. Notices and administrative matters may surround worship but should not obscure the act of worship itself.

2. Aims

Through collective worship, St Peter's aims to:

- place the school's Christian vision at the heart of communal life and help pupils and adults explore its biblical and theological roots;
- provide meaningful opportunities to encounter Christian faith, teaching, prayer, worship and the person of Jesus Christ;
- create space for stillness, prayer and reflection, while respecting each individual's freedom of belief;
- develop understanding of the Bible, Christian festivals, Anglican traditions, symbols, liturgy and the rhythm of the Church year;
- encourage spiritual flourishing, hope, compassion, dignity, justice, service, forgiveness and responsibility;
- give pupils meaningful opportunities to plan, lead, respond to and evaluate worship;
- celebrate achievement, community and God's creation, and respond thoughtfully to local, national and global events;
- strengthen links with St Margaret's Church, the local parish, the Diocese and the wider Christian community.

3. Legal and Church of England framework

The school provides a daily act of collective worship for pupils in accordance with the legal framework applying to schools in England and the school's Church of England foundation and trust arrangements. In a Church of England school, worship reflects the Anglican character of the school and its trust deed.

The school has regard to current Department for Education requirements and Church of England guidance. At the date of this policy, the Department for Education has indicated that its longstanding collective worship guidance is to be updated; the school will therefore review its practice promptly when revised national guidance is published.

This policy also supports the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) focus on how collective worship expresses the school's Christian vision and enables pupils and adults to flourish spiritually.

4. Inclusive, invitational and inspiring worship

The school follows the Church of England expectation that collective worship should be inclusive, invitational and inspiring.

Inclusive: Worship is welcoming and accessible to pupils and adults with diverse backgrounds, beliefs, needs and experiences. Language, resources and participation are adapted where appropriate, including for pupils with SEND.

Invitational: Pupils and adults are invited to pray, sing, reflect and respond. No one is compelled to express a belief they do not hold. Appropriate alternatives such as quiet reflection are made clear.

Inspiring: Worship should engage the imagination and offer opportunities for reflection, challenge, hope and action. It draws on Scripture, story, music, prayer, silence, art, drama and other high-quality approaches.

5. Pattern and content of worship

Collective worship takes place every school day. It may involve the whole school, phases, classes or other appropriate groups. Worship may take place in school, at St Margaret's Church, or at another suitable location where arrangements meet the school's responsibilities.

A balanced programme will normally include:

- Bible readings and stories, with opportunities to explore their meaning;
- prayer, silence, reflection and age-appropriate Anglican liturgy and responses;
- hymns, worship songs and music from appropriate Christian traditions;
- Christian symbols, including the cross and candles, used purposefully and explained;
- the Church year, including Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter and Pentecost;
- Christian values and virtues connected explicitly to the school's Christian vision;
- appropriate opportunities to learn about the worldwide Church and, where relevant, to recognise the beliefs and traditions of others without confusing these with Christian worship;
- pupil participation, leadership and response.

The Bible is an important source of inspiration and teaching. Anglican prayers and practices may include the Lord's Prayer, the Grace, collects, blessings and appropriate call-and-response liturgy. The school may also draw thoughtfully on resources from other Christian denominations.

6. Structure of an act of worship

Leaders select an age-appropriate structure rather than following a rigid formula. A typical act of worship may include:

- Gather: create a distinctive, calm and welcoming worship space.
- Engage: introduce Scripture, a theme, story, image, music or stimulus.
- Respond: invite reflection, prayer, singing, discussion or a practical response.
- Send: connect learning to everyday life, the school's Christian vision and action beyond worship.

Music, a candle or other focal objects may be used to establish a reflective atmosphere. Any notices should be clearly separate from the act of worship.

7. Pupil leadership and voice

Pupil participation is an important part of worship at St Peter's. Pupils are supported to contribute prayers, readings, music, drama, reflection and other elements and, when ready, to plan and lead worship themselves. The school's Worship Team contributes to planning, leading and evaluating worship and may help develop prayer and reflection spaces.

Pupil voice is gathered regularly to understand the impact of worship, including what pupils remember, how worship connects with the school's Christian vision, and how opportunities for reflection and action affect them.

8. Links with the parish and wider Church

St Peter's values its relationship with St Margaret's Church and the wider Christian community. Special services may be held in church, including seasonal worship and the Year 6 Leavers' Service. Clergy, church members and other suitable Christian visitors may contribute to worship in school.

The school seeks to build pupils' understanding of Anglican identity while recognising that the Church of England forms part of a worldwide and ecumenical Christian community.

9. Visitors and external speakers

Visitors can enrich collective worship by bringing authentic perspectives on Christian faith, service, charity and community life. The school remains responsible for the content and safeguarding of worship led by visitors.

Before a visitor leads worship, an appropriate member of staff will agree the theme, intended content, age range, timing and arrangements. Visitors will be made aware of the school's Christian vision, inclusive and invitational approach and safeguarding expectations. A member of school staff will be present, and any concerning or inappropriate content will be addressed immediately under school safeguarding procedures.

10. SEND, equality and accessibility

Collective worship is planned so that pupils can participate meaningfully regardless of disability, SEND, background, faith or belief. Reasonable adjustments may include visual support, accessible language, seating arrangements, sensory considerations, supported communication and differentiated opportunities to respond.

Worship affirms the dignity and worth of every person and supports the school's duties under the Equality Act 2010. The school avoids stereotyping and ensures that references to difference and diversity are respectful, accurate and age appropriate.

11. Right of withdrawal

Parents have the legal right to withdraw their child from collective worship. Requests should be made to the Headteacher. The school will discuss the request sensitively so that parents understand the nature of collective worship at this Church of England school and the practical arrangements for withdrawal.

A pupil who is withdrawn will be appropriately supervised and provided with suitable alternative activity. Withdrawal from collective worship does not remove the wider Christian character, ethos and curriculum of the school. The school will not disadvantage a pupil because a parent has exercised this right.

12. Roles and responsibilities

Local School Board / Governing Body

- ensures that statutory and foundation requirements for collective worship are met;
- maintains oversight of the policy and the impact of collective worship;
- ensures the Christian character and trust-deed requirements of the school are appropriately reflected.

Headteacher

- ensures daily collective worship is provided and this policy is implemented;
- ensures safeguarding, equality, SEND and visitor arrangements are effective;
- supports high-quality planning, leadership, training and evaluation.

Collective Worship Lead

- coordinates a coherent and progressive programme of worship across the year;
- supports staff, pupils, clergy and visitors who lead worship;
- maintains appropriate planning and monitoring records;
- gathers pupil and staff voice and uses evaluation to improve provision.

All staff

- support a respectful and reverent atmosphere;
- model the inclusive and invitational nature of worship;

- raise safeguarding concerns in accordance with school procedures;
- contribute to planning, leading and evaluation where appropriate.

13. Planning, resources and copyright

Worship is planned over the year to reflect the school's Christian vision, biblical teaching, Christian values, the Church calendar, significant events and the needs of the school community. Plans should allow flexibility to respond appropriately to current events or pastoral needs.

Resources are selected for theological accuracy, age appropriateness, accessibility and quality. Music, images, video, prayers and other copyrighted material are used within the terms of the school's relevant licences and permissions.

14. Monitoring, evaluation and impact

Monitoring focuses on the quality and impact of worship rather than simply whether it has taken place. Leaders, governors, staff and pupils evaluate worship regularly. Evidence may include planning scrutiny, observation, pupil and staff voice, Worship Team feedback, governor monitoring and examples of pupil-led worship or response.

Evaluation considers whether worship:

- clearly expresses and explores the school's Christian vision;
- is inclusive, invitational, inspiring and age appropriate;
- develops understanding of Christianity and Anglican tradition;
- provides meaningful opportunities for prayer, reflection and spiritual development;
- enables pupils to participate, lead and influence worship;
- encourages thoughtful response and action;
- is accessible to pupils with SEND and reflects the diversity of the community.

15. Review

This policy will be reviewed annually, or earlier if legislation, Department for Education guidance, Church of England guidance, SIAMS expectations, Trust arrangements or school practice change significantly. The next scheduled review is September 2027.

Key reference documents

- Department for Education: Collective worship in schools (current published guidance, pending announced update).
- Church of England / National Society for Education: Guidance for Collective Worship, including the principles of inclusive, invitational and inspiring worship.
- National Society for Education: SIAMS Framework and current national inspection policies.
- Equality Act 2010 and relevant school safeguarding, SEND and visitor policies.