



COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

June 2026

Approved by:	Headteacher / Governing Body	Date: 17 th June 2026
Reviewed & Updated:	JUNE 2026	
Next review due:	Summer 2028	

EQUALITY STATEMENT

This document was formulated to meet the requirements of the Equality Act 2010.

The Governing Body recognises its legal responsibilities under the Equality Act 2010. This policy will ensure equality and fairness regardless of race, sex (gender), sexual orientation, religion or belief, gender re-assignment, pregnancy and maternity, marriage and civil partnership, disability or age.

GDPR DATA PROTECTION STATEMENT

Data will be processed in line with the requirements and protections set out in the UK General Data Protection Regulation.

North Wheatley C of E Primary School



Policy

BELIEVE * ACHIEVE * THRIVE

Our Vision and Values

At North Wheatley C of E Primary our vision and values are:

The journey through North Wheatley C of E Primary will give every member of the school community the courage and faith to: **'BELIEVE, ACHIEVE & THRIVE'** to encourage them to **'be the best me that they can be'** so that they **'Shine as lights in the World'** - Philippians 2:15.

Christian Values are the heartbeat of our school.

Believe: Believe in yourself, your faith and others

Achieve: Achieve your goals, your dreams and your future

Thrive: Thrive through a love of yourself, your faith, your values, your love of learning

Legal Framework

There must be a daily act of collective worship in all maintained schools for all pupils, other than those in a nursery class or a nursery school. This can take place at any time in the school day and in any groupings. Collective worship in a Church of England School must be in accordance with the tenets and practices of the Church of England. In other words, the law on collective worship that applies in a community school, "that it should be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character", is not relevant. Collective worship at North Wheatley should be distinctly Christian and reflect Anglican traditions.

The governing body have the responsibility for ensuring that the school can respond to IQ3 in the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) framework, which asks 'How is daily collective worship enabling pupils and adults to flourish spiritually? They are also tasked with monitoring and evaluating how collective worship is helping pupils and adults flourish spiritually in consultation with the headteacher.

School Statement on Collective Worship

At North Wheatley, worship is central to the life of school and is the main platform for exploring the school's vision and associated values. 'Shine as lights in the world' – Philippeans 2 15-16 is our Christian Vision and we refer to this in Collective Worship with children being able to shine like lights in our school and community. It is well planned and of high quality, enabling spiritual flourishing for pupils and adults. It will be invitational, inspirational and inclusive. In this way the whole school community is engaged on a journey of discovery, exploring the teachings of Jesus and the Bible.

For Christians in Church, worship is about honouring God and responding to the loving nature of God as revealed through the Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. A school is not a Church but is a collection of people who come from a variety of backgrounds for the purpose of education. The family backgrounds may be very different, and collective worship must take account of the varied circumstances of staff and pupils.

However, at North Wheatley, the purpose of collective worship will be to lead people to a threshold where they can witness worship and join in, if they wish. It is a place where all can flourish spiritually.

"Worship in (CofE) schools promotes theological and Religious Literacy and liberates participants to an imagining of a different order of justice, mercy and hope"¹

¹ CEE Vision statement "Deeply Christian, Serving the Common Good" Autumn 2016

Through Collective Worship pupils will be offered a space and a place for the telling of the Christian story. They will be offered an understanding of worship through being invited to participate in or observe prayer, reading and reflection on the Bible, liturgy, sacrament and experience of the musical and other imaginative riches of Christianity. Opportunities to reflect on the beauty, joy and pain of the world will be given. Pupils will be given time to consider their responsibilities to others and to grow in love and service. Time will be given for celebration, both for the accomplishments of school members and to mark the seasonal festivals of the Christian (and other faiths²) calendar. Pupils will be offered time to be able to contemplate and develop spiritually.³ Collective Worship in our school is invitational, inspirational and inclusive.

Aims and Guiding Principles

This school follows the guiding principles highlighted in the document: *Collective Worship in Church of England Schools Inclusive Invitational Inspiring Guidance Document, May 2021*. Collective worship at North Wheatley aims to:

- have a pivotal place in the life of the school
- support pupils and adults to flourish spiritually
- be the central vehicle by which the school's vision and associated values are unpacked and explored so that the whole school community is challenged and engaged with the teachings of Jesus and the Bible
- provide an experience of worship that will offer opportunities for those present to observe and/or respond to the presence, power and peace of God as understood by Christians. This will always be invitational, offering an opportunity to take part whilst allowing the freedom for those of other faiths and none to be present with integrity.
- support pupils in the development of their understanding of the Trinitarian nature of God in Christian belief
- provide a variety of different opportunities for reflection, understanding of diverse liturgical traditions, participation, challenge and enjoyment where all present can be actively involved and develop their own spirituality whilst contributing to the communal journey

² Collective Worship in a CofE school must be in alignment with the religious foundation of the school (Christian), however there is a responsibility for schools in all contexts to mark, respond and learn from the festivals of other faiths. This may be designated as a separate act, not to be conflated with collective worship.

³ "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 and to devote the will to the purpose of God". William Temple (1881-1894)

- help children to become familiar with Christian language and symbolism and the cycle of the Church year so that they are offered a pattern of meanings and a framework into which they can begin to integrate experience
- ensure that materials and themes for worship are carefully selected to make sure pupils understand the work of Christians and the church locally, nationally and globally and how this reflects the teachings of the Bible and the example of Jesus.

Collective worship at North Wheatley

Collective worship at North Wheatley includes and supports:

- Worship that reflects the cycle of the Church year
- Worship that celebrates the schools' Christian vision and values of the school
- Worship that makes explicit links between Bible stories and the Christian values of the school
- A pattern for worship which reflects Anglican tradition in all daily worship, whatever the grouping including opening words, prayer, time to pause and be still, time to celebrate and the opportunity to personally reflect on what has been shared.
- A wide range and variety of materials used, including websites, artefacts, stories, drama scripts, artwork, music, songs, film clips, focal points e.g. a picture or candle
- Opportunities for children and adults to explore faith in today's world
- The exploration of the Christian belief in the Trinitarian nature of God
- Time for spiritual flourishing through prayer, stillness and reflection

Collective Worship takes place daily and is organised through a variety of groupings to provide opportunities for both shared and more intimate experiences of worship. These include:

- Whole-school worship, bringing together the entire school community.
- Key stage worship, allowing content to be tailored to pupils' developmental stages.
- Class-based worship, providing opportunities for greater participation, discussion and reflection.
- Worship led by pupil groups, including worship leaders, chaplaincy teams, school councils or other pupil leadership groups.

All members of staff are encouraged to attend, participate and lead Collective Worship as an expression of the school Christian vision and values.

Staff may contribute to worship in a variety of ways, including:

- Planning and leading worship.
 - Supporting pupil-led worship.
 - Facilitating reflection and discussion.
 - Contributing prayers, readings, music or creative responses.
 - Modelling respectful participation and engagement.
- The role of the local incumbent is to support and lead collective worship in partnership with the SLT on a regular basis, including additional services in the church throughout the church's year where possible and appropriate.
 - The local incumbent/church is available to support leaders of collective worship to develop their understanding of Christian theology, the teachings of the Bible and develop a deeper understanding of Anglican traditions and liturgy.

Staff Development and Training

We ensure that all staff, including support staff, receive appropriate training and opportunities for professional development, both as individuals and as groups or teams. We work closely with the Diocese of Southwell and Nottingham and our local church. Additionally, support and guidance are provided for visitors and the clergy who lead collective worship.

The Right of Withdrawal from Collective Worship

The 1944 and 1988 Education Acts state that parents have the right to withdraw children from collective worship and suitable arrangements should be made to accommodate these children.

At North Wheatley there are a number of children whose families hold a non-religious view, are members of another faith, or have not shared information.

Part of the distinctively Christian nature of Church of England Schools is that they should be as hospitable and inclusive to all in the community they serve. As collective worship occupies such a central place in the life of the Church school, this should be made clear on induction, and it is hoped that parents will be making a specific choice of the school knowing that the distinctive ethos will determine a Christian tradition within collective worship.

On occasions, a parent may make a request for their child to be withdrawn from Collective worship. Parents have a legal right to withdraw their child from collective worship. However, the school encourages full participation in activities that reflect its Christian ethos, aligned with its values and community spirit.

Key Considerations for Parents Requesting Withdrawal:

- Worship is a core part of the school's communal life and shared values.
- Events like Harvest and Christmas are often conducted within the context of worship.
- Worship contributes to religious education and provides opportunities to explore spiritual themes.
- Withdrawal does not exclude a child from the Christian ethos embedded throughout the curriculum.

Please see the Diocesan guidance for further information on withdrawal from Collective worship.

Development, Sharing, Review and Monitoring of this Policy

Development

This policy was developed by the school taking account of relevant legislation and guidance, stakeholder input (e.g. staff and governor consultation), and current school priorities.

This policy is to be read in conjunction with the Collective Worship in Church of England Schools Inclusive Invitational Inspiring Guidance Document and the Diocesan Collective Worship Guidance Document.

Sharing and Accessibility

This policy is published on the school website, so it is accessible to parents, carers and other stakeholders. All staff are made aware of the policy and any updates are shared through staff training or email. Where appropriate, pupils are made aware of key elements of this policy in an accessible, age-appropriate way.

Review and Approval

This policy is reviewed every two years by the Pupils and Curriculum committee, which considers any views expressed by parents, pupils and staff. The committee's recommendations are reported to the **full governing body** for approval and action as appropriate. As with all policy reviews, we ensure alignment with current statutory requirements, with other relevant policies, and with the school's **Christian vision**.

Monitoring of Implementation and Impact

Governors monitor the implementation and impact of this policy in line with the board's monitoring schedule and the school's monitoring arrangements (e.g. headteacher reports, link governor visits, committee scrutiny, and relevant data).