

Central:

Trust-wide policy, applicable at trust and school levels. Schools may not make any changes or adaptations

Collective Worship Statement

Church of England Schools

Deddington CE Primary



Approved by:	Ethos & Governance Committee
Date:	September 2025
Next review date:	September 2028

Adopted by school:	
Date:	

ODST Collective Worship Statement for Church of England Schools

Our Christian vision:

At Deddington we create an inclusive, nurturing, caring community empowering each other to **let their light shine** through **INSPIRING** and supporting each other, **BELIEVING** in ourselves and others and **ACHIEVING** together.

Theologically rooted in: **Matthew 5 v14 and 16**

“You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.”

“Let your light shine - Inspire Believe Achieve.”

Introduction

At Deddington CE Primary School, collective worship strengthens and supports the Christian ethos and identity of our school and reaffirms our vision and Christian values. Our worship reflects the variety of traditions found within the Church of England and follows the Christian liturgical year. The daily act of worship is at the heart of our school and is supported by all staff and LGB members. It makes an important contribution to the overall spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of our school and celebrates the central role that each person has to play within our school community.

Aims

Our collective worship is planned:

- to be inspiring, inclusive, invitational* and engaging, so that all participants are able to talk about the difference worship makes to their relationships and the life of the school
- around Biblical texts and Christian teaching
- to deepen understanding of our Christian values
- with an understanding of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit
- to deepen our understanding of Anglican and other Christian traditions found in the UK and worldwide
- to challenge everyone, regardless of background to understand and embark on their own spiritual journey
- to develop an appreciation and understanding of the value of prayer, reflection and stillness
- to develop a sense of the spiritual, creating opportunities to wonder and respond to something beyond the everyday
- to praise, celebrate and give thanks
- to acknowledge significant achievements and mark significant occasions within the school, local and international community

*Collective worship in a church school should be invitational and an experience that does not offend the integrity of the non-religious or those of different faiths. It does not pre-suppose shared beliefs.

Legal Requirements

We meet legal requirements by providing a daily act of collective worship which is in line with our Trust Deed and Anglican foundation. The Local Governing Body holds responsibility for ensuring that the legal requirements for worship are met and that all pupils are offered a meaningful act of Christian worship. Our daily worship can be whole school worship, key stage, class or group worship.

Withdrawal from Collective Worship

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from acts of worship. We comply with any request from a parent to withdraw their child. However, in view of the Christian ethos and distinctive Christian character of our school, we hope that all children admitted will participate in collective worship, and that anyone wishing to withdraw their child will discuss this with the headteacher before making their decision. Any queries about withdrawal from collective worship should be directed to the Headteacher. Following a conversation with the headteacher, parents should confirm this request in writing.

We acknowledge that teachers also have the right to withdraw from collective worship. However, as a church school, all members of staff are asked to support the Christian ethos of the school and therefore we expect teaching staff to attend worship. Collective worship cannot be used as part of a teacher's planning, preparation and assessment (PPA) time. Any member of staff wishing to withdraw from worship should discuss their wishes with the headteacher. Should a member of staff still seek to withdraw following this discussion, they should provide written notice to the headteacher.

Visitor Involvement in Worship

Our local incumbent, members of the parish team, and other visitors may be involved in our worship on a regular basis and enrich our worship.

We Invite visitors to participate in and lead our worship. We liaise with them beforehand so that they are clear about the aims of our collective worship, our school values and the danger of perceived proselytising. Attempts to persuade participants to adopt particular religious or non-religious beliefs are not appropriate. In general, the headteacher is consulted before a visiting speaker is confirmed.

Monitoring and Evaluation of Worship

We evaluate our acts of collective worship and the impact they have on the school and our wider community. This involves monitoring by school leaders, staff, pupils and LGB members and takes place both informally and formally. Everyone who leads worship is asked to evaluate continuously, reflecting on how they can improve and develop their practice. We welcome the views of all those who participate in our worship, including parents and visitors. These views and any suggestions play an integral part in developing the spiritual growth of our school community.

The impact of our collective worship is independently inspected by law under Section 48 of the Education Act 2005.

This statement should be reviewed regularly in line with the school's procedures, at least every three years.

Worship Schedule 2025-26

These times can be moved around depending on the time and events for that week, but the weekly coverage is the same.

DAY	FOCUS	LED BY
MONDAY	<p>WHOLE SCHOOL This may follow themes linked to specific days or weeks eg Fairtrade Fortnight, Black History Month, Week of Kindness. Science week. It may be that a particular value or issue may be covered at the discretion of the Head teacher or member of staff that is leading worship for that day.</p>	<p>CLIVE Other staff depending on theme.</p>
TUESDAY	<p>CLERGY WORSHIP Clergy led worship has a focus on bible stories that resonate in our world today - Jesus' life and miracles and heroes of The Old Testament and the liturgical calendar. These may have links to times within the church calendar, Saint's days, Christian Charities such as Christian Aid week. Some worships may be planned with support of SB and Rev Nick and delivered by/with Worship group. INTERACTIVE</p>	<p>REV NIC/ SB if he is not available</p>
WEDNESDAY	<p>NO OUTSIDERS WORSHIP NO OUTSIDERS resources are designed to provide opportunities for children to learn from our world and develop respect for others beliefs, feelings and faiths. They encourage exploration, discussion, challenge and inspire children to learn. Pupils are divided into EYFS + KS1 and then KS2 to enable current affairs to be discussed and reflected upon in an age appropriate way.</p>	<p>KEY STAGE/PHASE/WHOLE SCHOOL AS APPROPRIATE</p>
THURSDAY	<p>REFLECTIONS Each Thursday, the children have the opportunity to reflect further on the theme of worship for that week. thoughts and ideas are logged in our new class reflection books, which allow us as a school to capture the connections/ thoughts and emotions that the themes conjure up in the children's minds.</p>	<p>CLASS TEACHER</p>
FRIDAY	<p>CELEBRATION ASSEMBLY On a Friday, we take the opportunity to celebrate the children's achievements throughout the week. Parents are invited to join us in celebration. The children are awarded our new 'Let your light shine' awards and Reading Miles are announced. House points are shared at the end of each term. Throughout the year, children are invited to bring in awards achieved outside of school to share with us.</p>	<p>CLIVE with other members of staff supporting</p>

Collective Worship Appendix

Non-Negotiable Features of Collective Worship	
All worship sessions will follow the worship timetable for the term.	

Class based worship and reflection sessions will be recorded on short term plans and weekly timetables.	
Worship will have a visual stimulus or focal point.	
Worship will include prayer; the school prayer will be recited by all (in addition to sharing class prayers, the Lord's prayer and other prayers when appropriate).	
Worship will include music (particularly whilst the children enter and exit worship sessions)	
Worship is always inclusive. It will include a quiet time of spiritual reflection; children can talk to their God or reflect silently.	
Reference will be made in worship sessions to God or Jesus	
<p>We will also see the following good practice most of the time.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reference to the school values and the explicitly Christian links • A song or hymn. • A Bible reading or Biblical message • A story or talk relevant to the age group 	