

Collective Worship Policy



'Striving for Life in All its Fullness' John 10:10

Reviewed by: Headteacher	September 2026
Approved by: Governing Body (if applicable)	Autumn 2026
Date for next review (or earlier should legislation require it)	Autumn 2028

Our Christian Vision

Jesus said *'I have come that they may have life in all its fullness' John 10:10.*

At Archbishop Cranmer C of E Primary Academy we strive for life in all its fullness, for all our children, staff and school community.

Our Mission Statement

For life in all its fullness for today and the future, we are a caring Church of England school where every child is valued. We provide a rich curriculum and a culture of opportunity and ambition. Our Christian values underpin all aspects of school life, supporting children to flourish academically, socially and spiritually.

Through collective worship we explore what this means for the way we live together and put our vision into action through our Take Care ethos.

Our Christian Ethos

Archbishop Cranmer C of E Primary Academy strives to be an inclusive community where children grow, learn and achieve together. Our Take Care Learning Behaviours, held together by our Christian Values, form the essence of our ethos and gives our school its sense of value and drive. We always challenge our school community to consider what our values mean to them.

Our Take Care Hand reminds us that we are always:

- Taking Care (forming meaningful relationships with ourselves and others)
- Aspiring to have a go (being creative and curious)
- Acting with Integrity (always doing the right thing)
- Working hard (aspiring to be the best we can be by embracing high challenge, creative work)
- Being proud of ourselves (growing in confidence, knowing what is possible)



Our Christian values of Kindness, Trust, Courage, Respect, Responsibility and Thanks help pupils understand and live out our vision.

Our strong partnership with St Thomas' Church is an important part of our identity as a Church of England school. Clergy and members of our Christian community contribute regularly to the worshipping life of the school.

The place of collective worship

A daily act of collective worship is provided for all pupils.

Collective worship reflects the Anglican foundation and character of our school and is rooted in Christian belief and practice. It provides opportunities for pupils and adults to encounter Christianity and to explore the person, teachings and example of Jesus.

We recognise that for some pupils their experiences at school may be their principal experience of Christian worship. We therefore take seriously our responsibility to make worship meaningful, engaging, age appropriate and accessible.

Inclusive, invitational and inspiring

Our collective worship is inclusive, invitational and inspiring.

Inclusive

Worship is carefully planned so that all pupils and adults can feel welcomed, included and respected whatever their individual faith, belief or worldview. It provides opportunities to meet, explore, question and respond to Christian teaching while recognising the diversity of our school community and wider society.

Invitational

Pupils and adults are invited to participate in worship and prayer. They are not compelled to express a particular belief or participate in prayer. Opportunities for prayer are offered sensitively so that individuals may choose to pray or use the time for their own quiet reflection.

Inspiring

Worship should engage pupils intellectually, emotionally and spiritually. It encourages them to think deeply, reflect on their own lives and consider how they might respond through their choices, relationships and actions.

Our aims

Through collective worship we aim to:

- explore our Christian vision and enable pupils to understand how it can shape our lives and relationships
- develop pupils' understanding of Christianity as a living and diverse faith
- enable pupils to encounter and explore the life, teachings and example of Jesus Christ
- engage with Bible stories and biblical teaching and consider their meaning for life today
- experience prayer, reflection, music, singing and other expressions of Christian worship
- encounter aspects of Anglican tradition and practice including appropriate prayers, liturgy and the rhythm of the Christian year
- provide opportunities for stillness, reflection and spiritual development
- enable pupils to ask and explore significant questions about life, belief, meaning and values
- help pupils develop their own spiritual understanding and responses
- encourage respect for people of different religious and non-religious worldviews
- contribute to pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development
- connect local, national and global issues with our responsibilities towards one another and the world
- inspire service and courageous advocacy and encourage pupils to consider how they can make a positive difference

- strengthen a sense of belonging and community
- celebrate achievement, thankfulness and the life of our school.

The pattern of worship

Collective worship takes place every school day and is planned across the year so that pupils encounter the school's Christian vision, Christian values, biblical teaching, the life and teachings of Jesus and significant times within the Christian year.

Across the week worship includes whole-school worship led by the Headteacher, worship led by clergy and members of our church community, singing and music, engagement with current issues and the wider world and opportunities for celebration, prayer and reflection.

Our shared pattern helps children understand the different elements of worship:

- Gather together
- Learn from Jesus
- Reflect with others
- Go out and make a difference

Detailed themes, leaders and content are set out in the school's annual Collective Worship Plan.

Prayer and reflection

Prayer and reflection are important elements of collective worship.

Pupils encounter a range of forms of Christian prayer and have opportunities for silence and personal reflection. These include our familiar school prayer, prayers written by pupils and appropriate traditional Christian prayers and responses.

Participation in prayer is invitational. Pupils may choose to pray or use the time to reflect quietly.

Anglican tradition and the Christian year

As a Church of England school our worship reflects the Anglican foundation of the school.

Throughout their time at Archbishop Cranmer pupils encounter elements of Anglican worship and Christian tradition in age-appropriate ways. Worship reflects significant seasons and festivals within the Christian year and provides opportunities to encounter Bible readings, Christian prayer, music, song and liturgical responses.

Our relationship with St Thomas' Church enables pupils to experience worship within the local parish church and to understand the school's place within the wider Christian community.

Pupil participation and leadership

Pupils are active participants in the worshipping life of the school.

Opportunities include:

- contributing thoughts, questions and responses
- talking with others about questions raised through worship
- reading Bible passages and stories
- writing and sharing prayers
- drama and performance

- singing together
- supporting sound and visual presentations
- contributing to class Collective Worship Reflection Books
- helping to plan, lead and evaluate aspects of worship
- taking opportunities for older pupils to support and positively influence younger pupils.

Pupil voice is also used to help leaders understand how worship influences pupils' thinking, spirituality, relationships and actions.

Spiritual development

Collective worship makes an important contribution to the spiritual flourishing of pupils and adults.

It provides regular opportunities to pause, wonder, reflect, question and consider matters of meaning, purpose, belief and relationship. Pupils are encouraged to reflect on themselves, their relationships with others, the beauty and complexity of the world and questions of faith and belief.

Worship provides space for pupils to develop and express their own responses while encountering the Christian understanding of God and human life.

Worship leading to action

Collective worship encourages pupils to consider how reflection and belief can influence the way we live.

Through our Christian vision and Take Care ethos pupils are encouraged to demonstrate kindness, trust, courage, respect, responsibility and thankfulness in their relationships and actions.

Worship also provides opportunities to consider injustice and need within our local, national and global communities and to respond through service and courageous advocacy. Our aim is that pupils increasingly understand that our Christian vision is not simply something we talk about but something that influences how we live and the difference we make.

Inclusion

Collective worship is planned to be accessible to all pupils including those with SEND and those from different religious and non-religious backgrounds.

Leaders consider the age, development, experiences and needs of pupils when planning worship.

Monitoring and evaluation

The Headteacher oversees collective worship with support from staff, clergy, pupils and governors.

The school evaluates both the quality and impact of collective worship. Evidence may include:

- pupil voice
- pupil leadership and participation
- Collective Worship Reflection Books
- observation of worship
- discussion with staff, governors and church partners
- examples of ways in which worship has influenced pupils' thinking, relationships, choices, service and courageous advocacy.

Evaluation is used to inform future planning and development.

Governors maintain oversight of collective worship as part of their responsibility for the Christian character and vision of the school.

Right of withdrawal

Parents and carers have the legal right to withdraw their child wholly or partly from collective worship including collective worship taking place in church.

A request for withdrawal will be granted without requiring parents to provide a reason. Parents may make their request in writing to the Headteacher.

The school may offer parents an opportunity to discuss the arrangements or ask questions about collective worship but such a conversation is entirely optional and is not a condition of exercising the right of withdrawal.

Where a pupil is withdrawn the school will explain the alternative arrangements that will be made. Arrangements will be managed sensitively so that pupils are not disadvantaged, excluded or stigmatised.

The school will keep an appropriate record of the parent's request and the arrangements made.

Relationship with Religious Education

Collective worship and Religious Education have distinct purposes.

Religious Education is an academic curriculum subject in which pupils develop knowledge and understanding of Christianity and a range of religious and non-religious worldviews. RE is taught objectively, critically and pluralistically.

Collective worship is an expression of the school's Christian foundation and provides opportunities to encounter and respond to Christian faith and practice.

Time allocated to collective worship does not form part of the curriculum time allocated to Religious Education.

Responsibility and review

The governing body has responsibility for ensuring that the school fulfils its statutory responsibilities for collective worship in consultation with the Headteacher.

The Headteacher is responsible for ensuring that the school's provision reflects its Church of England foundation, Christian vision and this policy.

This policy is reviewed regularly and in response to significant changes to national, Church of England or diocesan guidance.