Collective Worship Policy

This policy was last reviewed:	Autumn 2023
This policy will be reviewed again:	Autumn 2025
This policy will be reviewed by:	Head Teacher, Collective Worship Coordinator and the Faith Group.
Statutory policy:	No
Source:	Governing Body

Our School Vision

We aim to enable every child to flourish in their potential as a child of God, to achieve without limits and to become an agent of change. We are committed to fostering good mental health and wellbeing for our whole school community. Our school is completely inclusive and distinctively Christian.

Collective Worship Policy

Although collective worship is a legal requirement in schools, at St Richard's it reflects our ethos and vision and we want it to be the heartbeat of our school. Collective worship is a key part of the school day, and a safe space for children to come and just 'be'. Collective worship also provides the opportunity to celebrate and promote the Christian foundation of our school. In accordance with our trust deeds it is always of a Christian nature. At the same time we recognise that there are a range of faiths in our community, and all children in our school are valued, all are included in our collective worship and all are invited to participate.

We are keen that our collective worship times reflect the vision of our school, especially mirroring our faith ID and the good news message that God is love and wants to be in relationship with people. As a Church of England school, our collective worship reflects the Christian liturgical year and the different traditions and styles of worship that can be found in the Church. We want our worship to be not only inclusive and informative but also inspirational.

During collective worship times we want to provide opportunities for the whole school community to learn about and from the Bible, and to begin to understand the nature of God and the concept of the Trinity. It is also a time to celebrate key festivals and traditions in the Christian faith and for children to consider their own beliefs and spiritual journey. There will be times of celebrations and excitement as well as times of prayer, peace, stillness and reflection.

Aims of Collective Worship

Through collective worship we want to give our school community the opportunity to;

Have space to gather together and a time 'to breathe' in the busy school day.

Learn about the Bible, the person of Jesus and the nature of God.

Express praise and thanksgiving to God

Communicate and experience worship through a variety of different Media, such as art, music, poetry and drama.

Explore their own beliefs and spirituality.

Experience Christian worship in a variety of different cultures and traditions.

Promote the key values of the school, especially our Faith ID and vision statement.

Celebrate special times in the Christian calendar and within our school community.

Develop their understanding of the nature and language of worship.

Have time to celebrate and time to reflect, to share joy and empathise with challenges.

Affirm the Christian values that underpin the ethos of our school.

Planning and monitoring Collective Worship

At St Richard's we realise the importance of marking out a special time for collective worship daily in school. Each time is planned and takes place in the school Hall, in St Richard's church or in the classroom. Most collective worships include the whole school but some are for separate key stages. EYFS are encouraged to join celebration times and whole school Collective worship when it is appropriate for them. When it is not possible to meet as a large group, collective worship conducted in classrooms at a specific time of day.

Our collective worship is planned with the support of the Vicar of St Richard's church, the Faith group and incorporating ideas from the children's faith group. The collective worship is led by different adults including Church leaders from the community, teachers, teaching assistants, visiting groups and charities and the children in school. The person leading the worship is expected to plan and deliver the worship to a high standard. The collective worship coordinator is responsible for overseeing the planning and evaluation of collective worship in school and will monitor any visitors who come to lead collective worship, making sure they understand the ethos and Christian beliefs of the school.

At the start of the worship, children and staff will walk in quietly to calm music, this sets the atmosphere and reminds the community it is a time to gather together and a space 'to breathe' in the busy school day. The collective worships will differ in content and feel but will follow the same structure of:

Gather

Engage

Respond

Send

The Vicar of St Richard's leads one collective worship each week and works with different classes to help the children to lead key services each year. School staff are given support and help to deliver collective worship by local church leaders, the Head teacher and RE coordinator. The music and songs used are coordinated by the Head Teacher in collaboration with older students in the school.

Collective worship is planned to ensure a variety of topics and themes are covered as well as including special events. Collective worships are planned to reflect a variety of worship styles and a balance between times of praise and celebration, as well as times of stillness and reflection.

Elements of a collective worship time might include: Songs and music from a variety of cultures and styles, prayer, reflection, readings, stories, dance, drama, video clips, quizzes and questions, discussion, speech, silence, special artefacts, Christian meditation, art and games. The aim is to include interaction, foster engagement, and encourage a personal response.

Collective worships are evaluated using the collective worship journal. Children are invited to evaluate the worship they have attended that day and adult will record their thoughts. The faith group will regularly monitor collective worship planning and observe collective worship at least once a year, while the collective worship co-ordinator will do so termly. The children's faith group will provide evaluations of what collective worships they have enjoyed or felt were good as well as expressing how they think things could be improved.

Legal Requirements

The law requires the Head Teacher and Governing body to provide their school with a daily act of Collective Worship. This worship should be in line with the school's vision and foundation. At St Richard's we plan a daily collective worship that is a pivotal part of the school day.

Parents have the right to withdraw their child from collective worship. At St Richard's we respect the right of withdrawal but aim to make our collective worship inclusive so that all members of the community can feel comfortable to engage with what we are doing. As a church school our collective worships will have a Christian basis but children are not pressured to engage in prayer and praise. This right is also addressed in our inclusion and equal opportunities policy.

Resources

- Each class has a Reflective Area in their classroom that is a focus for their class acts of worship, for example a display or a small prayer table.
- There is a variety of specific artefacts including a selection of crosses, candles, other Christian symbols (e.g. fish), posters, bibles / bible stories, prayer books, music, and cloths.
- Each class should have a bible in a translation that is appropriate and accessible for children to read, and a collection of prayers to use. Other bibles, bible stories and prayer books are kept in the library.
- Many Christian artefacts are displayed around school and are available for use at any time.
- All hymn music scores and CDs are kept in the Hall.
- Teacher resource books for collective worship are kept in the staff study room. All teachers have login details for online resources.

Plans for Collective Worship

Weekly pattern of worship

	Type & duration of worship	**Start time**	**Grouping**	**Led by**	**Focus**
Mon	*Whole school* *(20 min)*	*10.10*	*YR – Y6*	*Vicar of St Richard's*	*As planned by Vicar, in agreement with the worship co-ordinator*
Tue	*Praise and Worship through singing*	*9.10*	*YR – Y6*	*Music Leader*	*Songs relating to theme/ festivals*
Wed	*Whole school* *(20 min)*	*9.10*	*YR to Y6*	*Teachers*	*Focus on whole school theme or other topical theme through story, prayer, reflection*
Thu	*Whole School* *(10 to 15 min)*	*Flexible*	*YR to Y6*	*Head Teacher*	*Focus on whole school theme or other topical theme through story, prayer, reflection*
Fri	*Class Assembly* *(20 min)*	*9.10* *10:10*	*Individual* *Classes*	*Children and class Teachers*	*Following the 'Big Start Assemblies' programme. (Online resources by Spring Harvest)* *Some Fridays will be scheduled for class assemblies throughout the year.*
	Rejoice Celebration Assembly	*2.45*	*YR – Y6*	*Headteacher*	*Celebration of achievement and Behaviour*

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP THEMES

3 YEAR CYCLE

YEAR	TERM	THEME
1	Autumn 1	Identity – Faith ID/ Key Bible stories
	Autumn 2	Harvest/Christmas
	Spring 1	Tree Scriptures/Key Bible stories
	Spring 2	Lent/Easter
	Summer 1	Eastertide/Bible Narrative/Key Bible stories
	Summer 2	Bible Narrative
2	Autumn 1	Identity – Bold, Bright, Beautiful
	Autumn 2	Harvest/Christmas
	Spring 1	TBC
	Spring 2	Lent/Easter- Crucifixion Experience/Focus
	Summer 1	Eastertide/Lord's Prayer
	Summer 2	Lord's Prayer
3	Autumn 1	Identity – Tree Names
	Autumn 2	Harvest/Christmas
	Spring 1	Parables
	Spring 2	Lent/Easter – Resurrection Experience/Focus
	Summer 1	Eastertide – How the Church began (Crucifixion to Pentecost)
	Summer 2	How Church Began continued

Festival/Special Collective Worships

Term/Service	Class/Children	Who to lead/support	Themes
Harvest	Year 4	Class Teacher and Simon Coupland (Vicar)	Thankfulness and sharing
Christmas	Year 3	Class Teacher and Simon Coupland (Vicar)	Incarnation and giving
Easter	Year 5	Class Teacher and Simon Coupland (Vicar)	Salvation and forgiveness
Transitions End of year service	Year 6	Class Teacher and Simon Coupland (Vicar)	Changes and hope
Childrens' faith group twice over the school year	CFG	SW and CFG	Children to plan with SW.

The festival collective worships will take place in the church and the school community is invited to join.

Each class will lead a class collective worship each year which parents and carers are invited to attend.