



COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

Believe and Achieve

**Believe in ourselves, those here to help us and God
Achieve our goals and celebrate success in every area of school life**

*With God there is no limit to what you can do. There is no obstacle you can't overcome.
Through Him, all things are possible.' Matthew 19.26.*

This underpins our **Christian vision** statement at St Nicholas:

Our school is a happy place where everyone is valued, every child can thrive and reach their full potential and where we live out our Christian values celebrating the uniqueness of each individual.

Our **values** are: kindness, hope, perseverance and responsibility.

At St Nicholas School, we are committed to ensuring equality of education and opportunity for all pupils, staff, parents and carers receiving services from the school, irrespective of race, gender, disability, faith or religion or socio-economic background. We aim to develop a culture of inclusion and diversity in which all those connected to the school feel proud of their identity and able to participate fully in school life.

Policy reviewed by:	School Effectiveness Committee – November 2023
Policy adopted by GB:	December 2023
Chair of Governing Body:	Lucy Parr
Headteacher	Rizelle Crouch
Policy review due:	November 2026

The aspiration to provide collective worship that is Inclusive, Invitational and Inspiring is underpinned by the following aims and objectives:

- Explore the school's vision and how that underpins shared values and virtues. In doing so, it will reflect on moral values such as compassion, gratitude, justice, humility, forgiveness and reconciliation; and develop virtues such as resilience, determination and creativity that develop character and contribute to academic progress.
- Help pupils and adults to appreciate the relevance of faith in today's world by encountering the teachings of Jesus and the Bible and developing understanding of the Christian belief in the trinitarian nature of God.
- Offer the opportunity, without compulsion, to all pupils and adults to grow spiritually through experiences of prayer, stillness, worship and reflection.
- Enable all pupils and adults to appreciate that Christians worship in different ways, for example using music, silence, story, prayer, reflection, as well as through the varied liturgical and other traditions of Anglican worship, festivals.
- Enable pupils to develop skills through engaging in the planning, leading and evaluation of collective worship in ways that lead to improving practice.

Reference to <https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2021-05/collective-worship-guidance-18052021.pdf>

The Content of Collective Worship

- Collective Worship is Christian in nature. Other religions are treated with respect but do not provide the basis for worship.
- Collective Worship, takes place each day and is led by staff and pupils on a rota basis.
- Collective Worship involves the whole school or sections of the school meeting together. Once a week individual classes hold their own acts of worship. Children are encouraged to be active by participating in appropriate ways, and lead the prayers on a daily basis when appropriate.
- The Worship team plan and deliver a collective worship session with guidance from the clergy and the Headteacher. Where possible one Collective Worship session each week is led by the older children who encourage children from each class to share their talents, skills and learning. Each term there are also opportunities for classes to lead a Worship session.
- Themes for assembly are chosen to reflect a wide variety of approaches and will link with the school half-termly values. Long term and short-term comprehensive plans are produced (see appendix 1). During the Friday Collective worship sessions, there will be a focus on the Core Values of St. Nicholas School. Children can nominate their peers for a star award to recognise this.
- Where appropriate, Collective Worship links with any event, local, national or world, of which the children may be aware and offer appropriate worship in response. There is always room for spontaneity.
- Most acts of Collective Worship are held on school premises in the school hall, or classrooms. Very occasionally worship is held in other places, for example the school playground. On a Tuesday morning the older children and any parents, governors and

friends of the school who would like to join us, meet in St Nicholas Church, where members of the clergy team lead worship (the youngest pupils attend 2 services each half term in Church). End of term services involve the children in active participation (drama, readings, music, singing, poetry, leading prayers).

- From time to time ministers from other Christian denominations or visitors representing charities, organisations or projects may be invited to lead or contribute to Collective Worship.
- We regard Collective Worship as non-curriculum time, but also recognise the opportunities that arise for links to be made with some areas of the curriculum, particularly PSHE and RE. The school regularly participates in Anti-Bullying Week. We also regard opportunities for speaking and listening as important for all pupils.

The Style of Collective Worship

Collective Worship in a Church school should enable every child and adult to flourish and to live life in all its fullness. (John 10:10). It will help educate for wisdom, knowledge and skills, hope and aspiration, dignity and respect, and developing community and understanding of living well together.

The style of acts of worship will vary according to the age of the children and theme. Over a period of time we expect to provide opportunities for:

- stillness and a time to reflect;
- use of candle, cross or other object to act as a focal point;
- use of words, stories, pictures and symbols as stimuli;
- prayer (own silent, led by adult, led by child, well known prayers including the Lord's prayer and The Grace);
- hymns, songs and music (listening and participation);
- drama;
- questions and answers – and sometimes the admission that there are no answers;
- expressions of thankfulness, praise and joy;
- feelings of sadness and loss will be included when appropriate.

Every act of Collective Worship should have a clear beginning, shape and ending. A clear distinction will be made between worship and general notices.





Spiritual Development

At St Nicholas, we provide children with openings for spiritual development in the following ways:

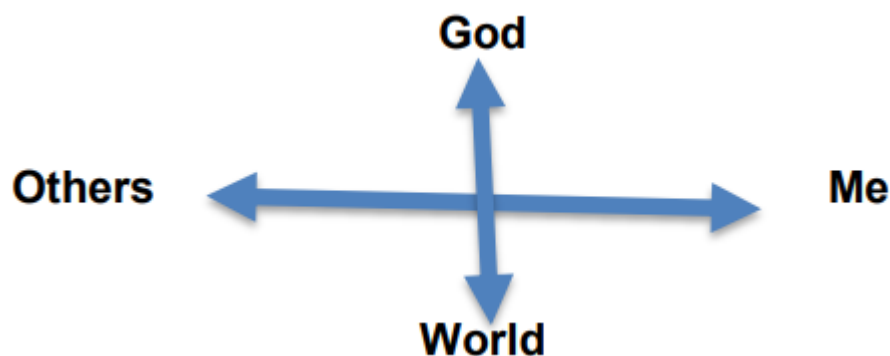
WINDOWS: giving children opportunities to become *aware* of the world in new ways; to *wonder* about life's 'Wows' (things that are amazing). Here, children are learning *about* life in all its fullness.

MIRRORS: giving children opportunities to *reflect* on their experiences; to *meditate* on life's big questions and to consider some possible answers. In this they are learning *from* life by exploring their own insights and perspectives and those of others.

DOORS: giving children opportunities to respond to all of this; to do something creative as a means of expressing, applying and further developing their thoughts and convictions. In this they are learning to live by putting into action what they are coming to believe and value.

	<p>Windows = Beauty</p> <p>What is inspiring to me about this? Looking at the world to notice all the wonders.</p>
	<p>Mirrors = Self</p> <p>How do I feel about this? What are my experiences?</p> <p>Thinking about ourselves and how we feel about things.</p>
	<p>Doors = Others</p> <p>What can I learn from others? How can I make a difference in the world?</p> <p>Understanding how other people feel.</p>
	<p>Candles = Beyond</p> <p>What do I believe? Asking 'Big questions' of life and consider possible answers Reflecting on our learning and experiences</p>

By referring to relationships, adults and children can also reflect on spirituality in different contexts. The 'Reflecting on Relationships' diagram shows how the whole community can demonstrate Jesus' teaching in their lives:



Right of Withdrawal

At St Nicholas School all children attend assembly. We do not expect a parent choosing this school for their child to withdraw them from Collective Worship. However, we recognise the right of any parent to do so under the 1988 Education Reform Act. In these circumstances the Headteacher would discuss the matter with parents and, if necessary, would make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during the periods concerned.

Monitoring and Evaluation

A record of assemblies is kept (see collective worship folder) and opportunities for monitoring and evaluating the impact of worship are timetabled throughout the year. Governors monitor worship on an annual basis.

Appendix 1 **Worship Overview**

2024-2025, 2026-2027	
Autumn term 1	Generosity
Autumn term 2	Compassion
Spring term 1	Courage
Spring term 2	Forgiveness
Summer term 1	Friendship
Summer term 2	Respect

2025-2026, 2027-2028	
Autumn term 1	Thankfulness
Autumn term 2	Trust
Spring term 1	Perseverance
Spring term 2	Justice
Summer term 1	Service
Summer term 2	Truthfulness

Short term act of worship planning sheet

Date	Focus	Reflection- How?	Prayers	Response of children	Monitoring

Appendix 2: Core school values

Core Values:

Hope

- hope in God's transforming power
- hope in the gifts and abilities of all who play their part in the life of the school
- hope in the power of the school to develop the potential of everyone

'Be joyful in hope and prayer.' Romans 12.12

Responsibility

- doing something to the best of our ability
- accepting praise and acknowledging our mistakes
- being a contributing member of the community and caring for God's world

'Work hard and cheerfully at whatever you do.' Colossians 3.23

Kindness

- being considerate and treating people with respect
- showing love through our actions to each other
- valuing who you are

'Encourage one another and build each other up.' Thessalonians 5.11

Perseverance

- being determined and using self-control to work through challenges
- believing in yourself and keeping going
- living out our Christian values

'Be strong and do not give up, for your work will be rewarded.' 2 Chronicles 15.7