



# Lancaster Christ Church C of E Primary School

*Have Faith... In yourself... In others... In God.*

## Collective Worship Policy

### What are we doing here?

When Mary heard the news that she would be the mother of God's son Jesus, the angel Gabriel told her *"For nothing will be impossible with God"*. For Christians, that means that every person's life is a unique gift from God, and as a school community we want every child to grow in the fullness of life God gives. This is reflected in our school **vision statement**:

*'Have faith... In yourself...in others...in God'.*

**"For nothing will be impossible with God."**

**Luke 1:37**

Later, when Jesus began the work God gave him, he chose a diverse group of friends and followers, everyone from fishermen to tax collectors. Even when he knew they would struggle and make mistakes, Jesus still had faith in his friends. One of Jesus' friends, St Peter, later wrote that *"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms."* Peter wanted to encourage us to recognise that God works in our lives and helps us live well together. When we are all different, Jesus invites us to be His friends and leaves no-one out. In our school community, we celebrate the gifts and skills each child brings and encourage children to bless and serve others in a variety of ways.

At Lancaster Christ Church we value the individuality of our children and their various curriculum strengths and interests. As a school, we aim to provide opportunities for children to build upon these to become the best that they can be. We are proud of our varied demographic and ensure that all children have opportunities to be successful, therefore we have designed a curriculum which encourages all children to flourish as individuals, the **intent** of which is rooted in **1 Peter 4:10**:

*"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms."*

Education has always been a Christian virtue, where learning and reading have helped generations of people discover the love of God in the Scriptures. Christians follow Jesus's example of challenging poverty and injustice - often by giving children access to an education which will transform their lives. The school was founded in 1875 by Rev'd Philip Bartlett, the then Vicar of Christ Church, as a lasting way to provide distinctive support to the Christ Church community. Rev'd Bartlett wanted to see disadvantaged children in Lancaster have a better future and although our city has changed a lot since then, we continue his legacy and encourage our children to *have faith in themselves, in others, and in God*. The Christian principle of service, upon which the school was founded, remains fundamental to our school today.

### **Our school aims are to:**

- ensure the distinctive nature of our Church school with the Christian Faith underpinning all that we do.
- create a nurturing environment where everyone can feel safe, supported, and valued.
- involve parents, carers, the church, and the wider community to enrich children's learning and cultural capital.
- provide an ambitious, relevant, and coherently planned and sequenced curriculum that supports children's ability to know more, remember more, and be able to do more.
- equip our children with the knowledge, skills, experiences, and attitudes they will need to successfully contribute to our future society.

**"For nothing will be impossible with God" Luke 1:37**



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- enable all children to reach their full potential through high quality teaching, targeted academic support and wider approaches.

Our theologically rooted **Christian vision** is central to our ethos, and alongside our theologically rooted **curriculum intent**, is lived out in every aspect of our daily school life. Children, parents, staff and governors help to shape our vision and ethos as we continually review our practices based on the situations we face, asking ourselves “what would Jesus do?”

Our core school values have been chosen to reflect some of the Christian values that are needed to fulfil our school vision statement, and provide a framework for how we conduct ourselves, both within and outside of school:

- **Service:** *“Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms.”* 1 Peter 10
- **Love:** *“For God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son. God gave his Son so that whoever believes in him may not be lost, but have eternal life.”* John 3:16
- **Perseverance:** *“I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.”* Philippians 4:13
- **Friendship:** *“Encourage one another and build each other up.”* 1 Thessalonians 5:11
- **Respect:** *“Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves.”* Romans 12:10
- **Kindness:** *“Do to others as you would have them do to you.”* Matthew 7.12

## Our vision for Collective Worship:

Collective Worship is an integral part of our daily school life at Lancaster Christ Church. It is an opportunity for us to meet as a school family to explore the Christian faith and the teachings of Jesus. Collective Worship reflect the Christian character of our school, drawing inspiration primarily from the Bible, with teachings predominantly derived from the Christian tradition. Through worship, we aim to nurture a deep sense of spiritual connection and understanding among both children and adults, guiding them on a journey of faith and reflection.

## Aims and Purpose of Collective Worship:

The aims and purpose of Collective Worship, as defined by The Education Reform Act (1988) are:

- To provide an opportunity for the children to worship God
- To enable children to consider spiritual and moral issues
- To enable children to explore their own beliefs
- To encourage participation and response
- To develop in children a sense of community spirit
- To promote a common ethos with shared values and reinforce positive attitudes.

## Legal Requirement for Collective Worship:

Collective Worship in Church Schools is governed by School Standards and Framework Act 1998 (Section 70 and Schedule 20) which requires that:

- All registered pupils (apart from those whose parents exercise the right to withdrawal) must on each school day take part in an act of Collective Worship.
- The daily act of Collective Worship should be conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Trust Deeds of the school and the ethos statement in the Instrument of Government, and should be consistent with the beliefs and practices of the Church of England.

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- All acts of Collective Worship in Church schools must be Christian in character. Pupils can be grouped in various ways for worship such as the whole school, year groups, tutor groups, classes, or other combinations.
- Acts of worship must be appropriate for the pupils in that they should take account of the pupils' age, aptitude and family backgrounds.
- The daily act of Collective Worship will normally take place on the school premises but all schools may hold their act of Collective Worship elsewhere (e.g. the local Parish Church) on special occasions.
- Responsibility for the arrangement of Collective Worship in a Church of England school rests with the governing body in consultation with the Headteacher. Foundation Governors have a special role in ensuring the Collective Worship is linked to the Trust Deeds.
- The Headteacher has a responsibility to ensure all arrangements for Collective Worship are secured.

## **Collective Worship Planning:**

Collective Worship is carefully planned by the Headteacher, who is the Collective Worship Lead, alongside the RE Subject Leader and the Vicar. All those involved in the planning of Collective Worship have attended training with the DBE, which has supported school's inclusive, invitational and inspirational approach.

- **Inclusive:** During Collective Worship, children are given the opportunity to think and to ask questions. Contributions from children are valued and those facilitating worship ensure that it is accessible to all by using a range of media and approaches across a half term. Collective Worship is attended by all children, teachers and teaching assistants. It is a protected time within our school day where we can come together as a school family. Wider staff members, parents and visitors to school are also welcome to attend. Each half term, the Worship plan is available on the school website so that parents know what to expect, and each week, we include a summary of Collective Worship in our newsletter so that it can extend into the home.
- **Invitational:** Collective Worship at Lancaster Christ Church follows a consistent format which allows all children the opportunity to take part:
  - Lights are dimmed and children are welcomed into Collective Worship with calming music. This helps to set the scene of Collective Worship as a space for an encounter with faith in God.
  - The Worship table is set, which is key to fostering a sense of fellowship and cohesion within the school community.
  - A Gathering, linked to the key value for the half term is collectively shared. This supports children in developing familiarity with some key verses from the Bible.
  - A bible story or passage is explored which supports children's understanding of the Worship theme.
  - There is an opportunity to reflect on the Bible story or passage through consideration of key questions and silent reflection.
  - An invitation to prayer, which draws together the theme of the Worship.
  - A hymn, which is relevant to the theme of the Worship is sung.
  - Worship is closed with an invitation to say The Lord's Prayer, followed by a dismissal.



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- **Inspirational:** Collective Worship is based on key Christian values and how we can apply these within our own lives. Each half term there is an identified value, with themes drawn from this which break the value down so that it becomes more relatable to the children.

We explore these themes using stories and teachings from the Bible which are presented using a variety of media and approaches. This gives children an opportunity to **learn, reflect** and **respond**.

## Collective Worship Organisation:

Each half term we have a core Christian Value which provides the focus for our Collective Worship. Through this value we **learn, reflect** and **respond** in order to develop our relationship with ourselves, with others, with God, and with the world around us.

Acts of Collective Worship usually last around 20 minutes. Our agreed pattern of Collective Worship is as follows:

- Monday: Whole school Collective Worship led by the Headteacher
- Tuesday: Key stage Choir Church led by the Choral Director
- Wednesday: Whole school Collective Worship led by the Vicar
- Thursday: Whole school Reflection and Praise led by School Staff
- Friday: Whole school Celebration of Gifts led by a member of the SLT.

Whilst Collective Worship will usually take place on school premises, we visit Christ Church church to worship throughout the year, with children leading services to reflect key events within the church calendar, such as Harvest, Advent, Christmas, Ash Wednesday and Easter.

We host a **Eucharist Service** in school every half term, which is led by our Choir Church and attended by children and their families, as well as school staff and members of the Christ Church congregation.

We have a very well-established pattern of **Prayer Space** events which we hold in school twice per year which allow children and adults to feel closer to God through prayer. Prayer Spaces allow our Year 6 Worship Team to develop themselves as facilitators, alongside members of the wider church community, who volunteer to run stations for us.

## **Inclusion:**

Worship is collective in that it involves meeting, exploring, questioning, and responding to others and, for some, to God. In our Church school children, their families and other adults can expect to encounter worship that is inclusive of, and fully accessible to, all. We recognise that many children and staff in our school will come from homes of different faith backgrounds as well as of no faith background. Moreover, many children will naturally be at different stages of their spiritual journey during their time in school. Children will be given the opportunity to think and ask questions. There will be space to consent, and dissent: to participate and to stand back; and to consider. Care will be taken to ensure that the language used by those facilitating worship avoids assuming faith in all those participating, listening and watching.

Collective worship will not be 'done to' but will involve meaningful contributions from the whole school community. We recognise that children will bring their own experience to worship.



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In line with the Equalities Act 2010, we are committed to equality of opportunity regardless of race, gender, cultural background, ability, religion, physical or sensory disability or any other protected characteristic. We therefore aim to make Collective Worship accessible to all and accommodate ourselves to individual needs as appropriate.

## **Parental Rights to Withdrawal:**

As established by the 1944 Education Act and reinforced in this policy, parents have the right to withdraw their children from Collective Worship. If a parent is considering withdrawing their child from Collective Worship they should make contact with the Headteacher in writing. Should such a situation arise, appropriate arrangements would be made in keeping with the requirements of the Act. This includes the school continuing to be responsible for the supervision of any child withdrawn by its parent from Collective Worship.

The Worship and Religious Education provided by our school is in accordance with the Church of England Foundation. This Foundation is also reflected in the curriculum and the whole life of the school community. Since the conduct of our school reflects the Church of England ethos, removal of pupils from Worship and/or RE (as parents are legally entitled to do) cannot insulate pupils from the religious life of our school. Jesus is the centre of our life in school and is therefore at the heart of everything we do.

## **Monitoring of Collective Worship:**

Parents, pupils and adults are entitled to be led in worship by those who have a secure understanding of the nature of collective worship in a Church school context and by those who are professional in their approach to working with pupils and adults from all faiths and none. As a Church school we ensure that:

- Worship leaders, including clergy, have access to regular training, primarily through local diocesan education teams.
- Pupil worship leaders are supported, encouraged and resourced to contribute meaningful acts of worship.
- Worship leaders, including clergy, have access to high quality and current resources.
- The governing body have robust systems in place to monitor the impact of worship effectively, which includes meaningful pupil voice. Those facilitating worship will have the opportunity to receive feedback and the hear the outcome of evaluation.
- Those from outside agencies and church groups invited into the school to facilitate worship will be trained and properly briefed about the school, its pupil context and the school's vision. They will be supported and monitored as part of the school's systems for the evaluation of the impact of worship.
- The Headteacher will be responsible for collective worship and ensure that appropriate policy and practice are in place and publicly available.

The quality and content of Collective Worship will be monitored by the Headteacher and Nominated Governor for Worship.

Collective Worship will be regularly evaluated by the Headteacher, Staff, Pupils and Governors.



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The provision for Collective Worship will be reported upon at least annually to governors by means of report from the Headteacher and from the Nominated Governor for Collective Worship.

## **Complaints about the Provision of Collective Worship:**

It is hoped that any complaint will be resolved informally by the Headteacher, in consultation with the Governors, and possibly with advice from the Diocese or Local Authority. However, if the complaint is not satisfactorily resolved, then formal procedures will be followed and the matter will be adjudicated by a specially constituted sub-committee of the Diocesan Board of Education acting on behalf of the Bishop of the Diocese.

## **Related Documents:**

- 'Collective Worship in Church of England Primary Schools: Inclusive Invitational Inspiring' (Version 18.5.21)

**This policy was reviewed and agreed by the Standards Committee of Lancaster Christ Church Church of England Primary School on: 24<sup>th</sup> February 2026**

**The scheduled review date of this policy is: February 2029**

**Signed:**

**(On behalf of the Governing Body)**

**Date:**



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## **REVIEW**

*The information in the table below details earlier versions of this document with a brief description of each review and how to distinguish amendments made since the previous version date (if any).*

<b>Version Number</b>	<b>Version Description</b>	<b>Date of Revision</b>
1	Original	November 2004
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Addition of 'About Our School', 'Our Mission Statement', 'Our Aims' and 'What Kind of School are We?' sections</li> <li>- Addition of 'Legal Requirement for Collective Worship', 'Daily Worship' and 'Context' sections</li> <li>- Addition of school's Trust Deed</li> <li>- Amendment of table (a) in 'Organisation and Delivery' section</li> <li>- Addition of points b, c, d, e, f and g under 'Organisation and Delivery' section</li> <li>- Addition of 'Content and Approaches' section</li> <li>- Amendments to 'Parental Right to Withdrawal' section</li> <li>- Addition of 'Consultation, Management, Recording and Review' section</li> <li>- Addition of 'Complaints about the Provision of Collective Worship' and 'Related Documents' sections</li> <li>- Minor alterations to layout including addition of footnote and review table</li> </ul>	February 2020
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 'About our school', 'Our School Aims' and 'Organisation and Delivery' sections updated</li> <li>- References to 'Co-ordinator' updated to 'Leader'</li> <li>- Header updated</li> </ul>	February 2023
4	Full review	February 2026