



Collective Worship Policy

Author: Headteacher
Owner: St Ann's School Committee
Date adopted: Spring 2026
Review: Spring 2029

We are a rights respecting school. All our policies and procedures are written and reviewed to ensure that children's rights, as detailed in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, are respected and promoted and this policy ensures:

- Article 3: The best interests of the child must be a top priority in all decisions and actions that affect children*
Article 12: All children have a right to be able to give their opinion when adults are making a decision that will affect them, and adults should take it seriously.
Article 13: Every child must be free to express their thoughts and opinions and to access all kinds of information, as long as it is within the law.
Article 14: Every child has the right to think and believe what they choose and also to practise their religion, as long as they are not stopping other people from enjoying their rights.
Article 15: Every child has the right to meet with other children and to join groups and organisations, as long as this does not stop other people from enjoying their rights.
Article 28: Every child has the right to an education.
Article 29: Education must develop every child's personality, talents and abilities to the full.
Article 30: Every child has the right to learn and use language, customs and religion of their family, whether or not these are shared by the majority of the people in the country where they live.
Article 31: Every child has the right to relax, play and take part in a wide range of cultural and artistic activities.

For more information on the convention and the rights of each child visit: <http://www.unicef.org.uk/>.

'But those who trust in the Lord will find new strength. They will soar on wings like eagles' Isaiah 40:31

'Together we aim high, with God's love we can fly'

Principle

Collective Worship at St Ann's offers pupils and staff a meaningful opportunity to encounter faith through engaging conversations about God, both individually and together. We gather daily to worship God and nurture the spiritual dimension of our lives. Our worship is designed to be truly welcoming, inclusive, and responsive to the needs of all members of our school community.

Inclusive, Invitational, and Inspiring Worship

Inclusive:

Worship is collective—it involves meeting, exploring, questioning, and responding both to others and, for some, to God. Pupils are encouraged to think critically and ask questions, with space to consent or dissent, participate actively or reflect quietly. Worship is not something “done to” pupils; it involves meaningful contributions from the entire school community. We recognise and value the diverse experiences pupils bring. Inclusion means pupils are actively involved in planning, leading, and evaluating worship. Collective worship embraces and celebrates all protected characteristics.

Invitational:

Parents, pupils, and staff can expect worship to be consistently invitational. Collective Worship provides opportunities to engage while respecting the freedom of those from different faiths or none to participate with integrity. Prayer is always optional and may be offered in one's own way, accompanied by moments of reflection.

Inspiring:

Worship at St Ann's is inspirational, aiming to be both formational and transformational. It encourages pupils and adults to explore profound questions about identity and purpose. Worship motivates reflection, action, and a commitment to positive community behaviour. It inspires pupils and staff to become courageous advocates for justice and peace, fostering deep reflection on their faith, beliefs, or philosophical convictions.

Aims

1. To establish an Anglican pattern of worship centred on prayer and reflection.
2. To foster a strong sense of community where everyone feels valued.
3. To celebrate individual and collective achievements as expressions of God-given talents.
4. To encourage active participation through children's own presentations of worship.
5. To highlight and celebrate the highest qualities of the human spirit in triumph and adversity.
6. To deepen children's understanding of the Christian faith.
7. To cultivate a sense of communion based on shared values of forgiveness, reconciliation, and empathy.
8. To strengthen partnerships between our school, St Ann's Church, and the wider community through shared Christian faith.
9. To share best practice in Collective Worship with other schools in the diocese.
10. To promote respect for other Christian denominations and world religions, reducing prejudice and supporting peace and reconciliation.

Expectations

As worship is central to our school ethos, all children are expected to attend Collective Worship unless parents formally withdraw their child. Staff are also expected to attend appropriate assemblies to participate in worship and support our Christian values.

Organisation of Worship

Collective Worship takes place daily, structured as follows:

	Focus	Worship Lead
MONDAY	Christian Value focus	Headteacher
TUESDAY	Global celebration or remembrance linked to UNICEF Children's Rights Charter or sustainable Global Goals	Headteacher or Teacher
WEDNESDAY	Christian Value or Festival focus inc Nurturing our Spirituality	Member of Clergy
THURSDAY	Worship & Praise	Headteacher or Teacher
FRIDAY	Family Worship <i>Global celebration or remembrance linked to UNICEF Children's Rights Charter or sustainable Global Goals</i> or Worship through Song	KS1 Lead KS2 Lead Headteacher

Worship Routine

- Children enter quietly to classical or reflective music.
- A candle is lit with the liturgical greeting, "The Lord be with you," marking the start of worship. The Holy Trinity is acknowledged: "We meet in the name of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit, Amen."
- Worship includes a story or media clip, reflection, prayer, and hymn.
- Worship ends with the liturgical response, "Peace be with you," the candle is extinguished, and children leave quietly to music.

Special Worship Events

- Each half term begins with the introduction of the focus Christian value.
- The school year starts with a Dedication Service welcoming new starters, including the presentation of a school Bible by the Parish Church Council.
- End-of-half-term services at St Ann's Church are led by year groups and involve parents, carers, and PCC members, incorporating dance, drama, art, and music.
- The whole school attends Epiphany and Ash Wednesday services led by the Reverend.
- KS2 classes participate annually in a mid-week Communion Service at St Ann's Church, with roles in readings, prayers, and hymns; confirmed pupils receive the Eucharist.
- Joint Eucharist services are held annually with other schools in the Trust.
- Year 6 attend the leavers' service at the Anglican Cathedral.
- Significant Anglican festivals and appropriate world religious festivals are celebrated.
- Key Stage 2 children lead class worship six times a year, with opportunities for spontaneous prayer.
- Values Ambassadors support daily worship by leading liturgical greetings.

Ethos Integration

Christian values, Fundamental British Values, UNICEF Children's Rights Charter, and sustainable development goals are embedded in our ethos and worship themes. We focus on six Christian values annually, rotating bi-annually, encouraging children to explore, reflect, and develop awe and wonder about their world.

Equal Opportunities

Our worship affirms the equality of all individuals in God's sight, regardless of culture, belief, race, ethnicity, gender, class, religion, ability, disability, age, or sexual orientation. It fosters shared responsibility, positive attitudes, and respect.

Evaluation of Impact

Collective Worship is evaluated through:

- Pupil reflections via surveys reviewed half-termly for strengths and development areas.
- Pupil interviews to gather deeper insights.
- Monitoring by the RE Lead and senior leadership with improvement recommendations.
- Staff participation and feedback to the RE team.

Conclusion

Daily Collective Worship is integral to the holistic development of children at St Ann's. It offers a unique space for reaffirming beliefs, pondering profound questions, celebrating goodness, and establishing shared ideals. Worship nurtures values that influence children beyond school and into adulthood.

Resources for Collective Worship

- Values for Life
- Jigsaw Materials
- Roots and Fruits
- Christian Values 4 Schools
- Gloucester Diocesan Materials
- 20 UNICEF Assemblies
- RE Today subscription

Policy Reviewed February 2026

Headteacher: _____

Chair of School Committee: _____