St John Baptist CE Primary School

Collective Worship Policy



1. **Our Christian Vision**
2. **Collective Worship**
3. **Aims**
4. **Organisation**
5. **Leadership and Monitoring**
6. **Right to Withdraw**
7. **Review**

Reviewed: June 2026

Review Date: June 2028

Signed: FGB

1. Our Christian Vision

At St John Baptist CE Primary School, our Christian vision shapes every aspect of school life, including our approach to collective worship.

Inspired by Jesus' words in Matthew's Gospel, we seek to enable every member of our school family to flourish and become a shining light through living out our faith, being hope-bringers in times of darkness and showing God's love to all.

Collective worship is central to this vision. It is the daily opportunity for our school community to gather together, encounter the Christian story, reflect on God's presence in our lives and consider how we are called to live. Through worship we seek to nurture wisdom, compassion, hope and courage so that our children grow into people who make a positive difference in the world.

As a Church of England school, we warmly welcome children, families and staff from all faiths and none. Our worship reflects our Christian foundation whilst recognising and valuing the diversity of our school community. We believe that everyone should feel respected, included and able to engage with worship in ways that are meaningful to them.

This policy outlines the principles that underpin collective worship at St John Baptist. Practical guidance, annual planning and worship resources are contained within the Living as Shining Lights: Collective Worship Handbook, which should be read alongside this policy.

2. Collective Worship

Collective worship is an integral part of the daily life of St John Baptist CE Primary School and is distinct from Religious Education. Whilst Religious Education develops children's understanding of religion and worldviews, collective worship provides opportunities for our school community to gather together in response to God through prayer, reflection, Scripture, music and stillness.

Rooted in the Christian faith and the traditions of the Church of England, our worship enables children to encounter the teachings of Jesus Christ, explore the Christian story and reflect upon its relevance to their own lives.

In keeping with the Church of England's vision for collective worship, worship at St John Baptist is **inclusive, invitational and inspiring**.

Our worship is **inclusive**, recognising and celebrating the diversity of our community. Every member of the school is welcomed, valued and encouraged to participate appropriately, regardless of faith background or personal belief.

Our worship is **invitational**. Prayer, reflection and moments of stillness are always offered as invitations. Children and adults are encouraged to participate in ways that are authentic and meaningful to them, without compulsion.

Our worship is **inspiring**. It seeks to develop spirituality, deepen understanding of the Christian faith and encourage every member of our community to become a shining light through acts of love, hope, courage and service.

Through collective worship we seek to create a culture where every child knows they are loved by God, valued within our community and capable of making a positive difference in the world.

3. Aims

Collective worship at St John Baptist CE Primary School seeks to:

- bring our Christian vision to life and enable every member of our community to flourish;
- provide opportunities to encounter God through the life and teachings of Jesus Christ, Scripture, prayer and Christian worship;
- develop children's spiritual awareness through reflection, stillness, music, awe and wonder;
- deepen understanding of the Christian faith, Anglican traditions and the seasons of the Church's year;
- explore our eleven Christian values and encourage children to live these out in their relationships, learning and service to others;
- encourage curiosity and thoughtful engagement with life's big questions, recognising that faith grows through reflection, conversation and wonder;
- nurture communities of hope, forgiveness, peace and reconciliation where every individual is respected and valued;
- inspire children to become courageous advocates who recognise injustice, care for God's creation and seek opportunities to serve others;
- strengthen our sense of belonging by celebrating achievements, supporting one another and sharing significant moments in the life of the school;
- develop respect for people of all faiths, cultures and worldviews, recognising the dignity and worth of every person as someone created in the image of God.

Collective worship is therefore much more than a daily gathering. It is one of the principal ways in which our Christian vision is lived out, shaping the character of our school community and encouraging everyone to become shining lights within school, at home and in the wider world.

4. Organisation

Collective worship takes place every school day and is carefully planned to reflect our Christian vision, our eleven Christian values and the seasons of the Church's year. Worship also responds to significant events within the life of the school, the local community and the wider world, helping children to make meaningful connections between faith and everyday life.

A variety of people contribute to the worshipping life of the school, including school leaders, teachers, support staff, clergy, governors, visitors and pupils. We believe that worship is enriched when children are active participants and are given opportunities to read Scripture, write and lead prayers, choose music, share reflections and contribute to the planning and leadership of worship.

Our worship draws upon the richness of the Anglican tradition through Scripture, prayer, music and the Christian calendar, whilst using a range of engaging approaches that are appropriate to the age and needs of our pupils.

The detailed organisation of worship, including annual planning, themes, music, prayers and leadership guidance, is contained within the Living as Shining Lights: Collective Worship Handbook.

5. Leadership and Monitoring

The Headteacher has overall responsibility for ensuring that collective worship reflects the school's Christian vision, fulfils statutory requirements and remains central to the life of the school.

Responsibility for coordinating collective worship, supporting staff and maintaining the Living as Shining Lights: Collective Worship Handbook is delegated to the Collective Worship Lead.

Foundation Governors, alongside the Headteacher and senior leaders, monitor collective worship as part of their responsibility for preserving and developing the Christian distinctiveness of the school. Monitoring includes observation of worship, discussion with pupils and staff, governor visits and regular evaluation of how effectively worship supports our vision and enables pupils to flourish.

The views of pupils are valued and regularly sought. Their reflections help to shape future worship and ensure that it remains relevant, engaging and meaningful for the whole school community.

Collective worship is reviewed regularly as part of the school's ongoing self-evaluation and school improvement processes.

6. Right of Withdrawal

Collective worship is an important expression of the Christian foundation of St John Baptist CE Primary School and we hope that every child will take part in this shared experience.

Parents have the legal right to withdraw their child, wholly or partly, from collective worship. Any parent wishing to exercise this right is encouraged to discuss their request with the Headteacher so that the purpose and nature of collective worship can be explained and appropriate arrangements made.

Members of staff also have the legal right to withdraw from leading or participating in collective worship in accordance with current legislation.

7. Review

This policy should be read alongside the following school documents:

- Living as Shining Lights: Collective Worship Handbook
- Religious Education Policy
- Behaviour Policy

The Governing Body will review this policy every two years, or sooner if required by changes to legislation or guidance.

As a Church of England school, we believe that collective worship is more than a daily event. It is one of the principal ways in which our Christian vision is lived out. Through worship we seek to nurture children and adults who live out their faith, bring hope in times of darkness and show God's love to all.

Together, we seek to become shining lights who enable others to flourish and who reflect the love of Christ within our school, our community and the wider world.