



# Collective Worship Policy

Date: September 2025

Review date: January 2027

The roots to grow, the path to follow, the wings to fly.

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

Luke 1:37

**Respect - Perseverance - Wisdom**



## Introduction

Our Christian ethos is our foundation and guiding principle and we work in close partnership with Pathfinder Church. Worship is in accordance with the school's trust deeds and is based on Anglican principles.

**Our vision is *'the roots to grow, the path to follow, the wings to fly'.***

In our growing new town, we are putting down roots as an establishing school and church. Together, we seek to journey along the path, intentionally supporting and encouraging one another, sharing the adventure. As we welcome all to our special places of teaching, learning and worship; celebrating the strengths of all within our community, of all religious and non-religious beliefs; together we hope to shape our new community and give Northstowe the wings to fly.

***Our vision is rooted in a powerful verse from the Bible:  
'For nothing will be impossible with God.'***

## Aims and Philosophy

Collective Worship aims to make a major contribution to school life, through:

- Providing an opportunity for children to worship God and to reflect and consider life; its joys, trials and meaning.
- Exploring and reflecting on what the Bible teaches us.
- Learning and reflecting on what Jesus' life, death and resurrection means to us.
- Celebrating Christian festivals together and alongside our partner Church.
- Fostering feelings of awe, wonder, mystery, and joy.
- Marking times of tragedy, grief and loss in the context of a biblical narrative of Hope.
- Enabling children to make an effective use of silence for reflection, contemplation and prayer.
- Providing a variety of opportunities for spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.
- Conveying the school's ethos
- Helping to build a community and directing thoughts and efforts towards common goals.

- Participation which encourages children to learn about worship, express their responses to it and to respect the beliefs and attitudes of others.
- Providing an opportunity to become acquainted with people from the local and wider community, including local churches.
- Celebrating God's gift to us, our talents and achievements.
- By giving memorable and enjoyable collective experiences.

### **Legal Requirements**

All registered children take part in a daily act of Collective Worship. The Headteacher, acting on behalf of the Board of Governors, takes responsibility to ensure that the daily act of Collective Worship takes place. Children may be withdrawn from Collective Worship by their parents on religious grounds. The school continues to be responsible for any child who is withdrawn. At Pathfinder we are committed to respect each individual's position in relation to belief and faith.

### **Conduct of Collective Worship**

Collective Worship is Christian and Anglican in character and is in harmony with the churchmanship and forms of worship of our partner church, Pathfinder Northstowe. The majority of our Christian families attend the local churches in Northstowe: Pathfinder Church and Emmanuel Church, with some attending churches of a wide range of denominations in the Greater Cambridge Area.

Collective Worship has an informal liturgical pattern. Worship is most often organised for the whole school together, but once a week takes place in individual classrooms, in the form of Picture News.

All acts of Collective Worship follow a similar liturgical pattern:

- Greeting: "The Peace of the Lord be with you"  
Response: "And also with you"
- Candle lighting: "As we come together, we light this candle. The light may remind you of Jesus, of God's love, of hope in the world or of something special to you today."
- The big question: "Today, as always we have a Big Question for you."
- Theme and teaching, providing context for the big question
- Biblical scripture
- Song
- Prayer and reflection: "It's time to find the quiet, still place inside of you. You may put your hands together or rest them in your lap. You may close your eyes or watch the candle flame. If you would like this prayer to be your prayer you can say 'Amen' at the end."
- Candle snuffing: "As the smoke spreads out it reminds us that our thoughts and prayers go with us."
- Sending: "May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all, now and ever more. Amen."

A clear distinction is made where the worship ends and the notices begin.

Each Friday, the achievements of children are celebrated in Celebration Worship.

At Pathfinder, the leaders of Collective Worship choose their words with care as we recognise the distinction between "collective" and "corporate" worship. Children are invited, not compelled, to worship. For example, the phrase "Christians believe" and not "we believe" is used. Children are invited to say "Amen" after a prayer, and not told to.

Music also plays a significant role in Collective Worship at Pathfinder. In particular, opportunities to regularly sing together enhances the atmosphere and sense of community; music provides opportunity for reflection

and contemplation when listened to; also staff and children sing as an expression of inner thought and feeling as a form of spiritual expression.

### **Planning Collective Worship**

Collective Worship is carefully planned; themes are chosen for each term and emphasis is given to our school values to set a positive culture in our school. Plans and resources are to be found on Microsoft Teams account and further information can be found from the RE/Collective Worship Lead. The whole school come together three times a week for whole school Worship. Once a week, individual classes gather for 'Picture News' and on the remaining day, the school have Sung Worship.

### **Record Keeping**

Plans and records of Collective Worship are stored electronically in the school's Microsoft Teams Account. Records are printed annually and stored in the Collective Worship Lead's File. Plans are reviewed regularly by the Headteacher, members of the Senior Leadership Team, Subject Lead and the clergy.

### **Monitoring and Evaluation**

Planning for Collective Worship is the responsibility of the RE/Collective Worship Lead; it is used to ensure the legal requirements are being met and to see if they comply with the aims of the policy. It is important that the children enjoy Collective Worship and engage in it respectfully and with meaning. Staff and children are invited to suggest improvements either by way of questionnaires, discussion or pupil interviews.

Resources from the Diocese of Ely are available to support with this process:

[https://www.elyeducation.org/main/?page\\_id=38](https://www.elyeducation.org/main/?page_id=38)

Collective Worship is observed and evaluated by governors, and members of the church community too. Governors monitor throughout the year, often attending Collective Worship at the same time as visiting for other purposes. Usually, a visiting governor will also talk informally to some children about that morning's worship and their wider experience of collective worships too. Records of monitoring and evaluation are kept in the Collective Worship Folder (both digitally and printed).

### **Resources**

Collective Worship resources are kept in a range of places:

- Planning documents are in the Staff Room.
- Equipment related to the candle are kept in a sealed box and locked in the Staff Room.
- Resources of a religious nature are kept in the Resources Cupboard. Resources are also available from the Diocesan Resources Centre in Ely and on their website.

### **RE and Collective Worship**

We recognise that the act of Collective Worship can contribute to the teaching of RE, however, it cannot replace the teaching of the agreed syllabus for RE. It can also provide valuable contributions to P.S.H.C.E, SMSCD, speaking and listening, environmental issues, art, music, dance and drama.

### **CPD and Development**

Collective Worship is kept fresh by making on-going links to worship themes at Pathfinder Church, Northstowe. Inset has been delivered by the Collective Worship co-ordinator and by Reverend Beth (Pathfinder Church, Northstowe) to all the staff. We welcome Pathfinder Church ministers to also lead Collective Worship, support in the role of chaplains and share best practice with staff.

### **Links With Other Policies**

DEMAT RE Policy

Behaviour, Routines and Expectations

DEMAT Behaviour Policy



## Lunch Prayer

Thank you for the world so sweet,  
Thank you for the food we eat,  
Thank you for the birds that sing,  
Thank you God for everything,  
Amen.

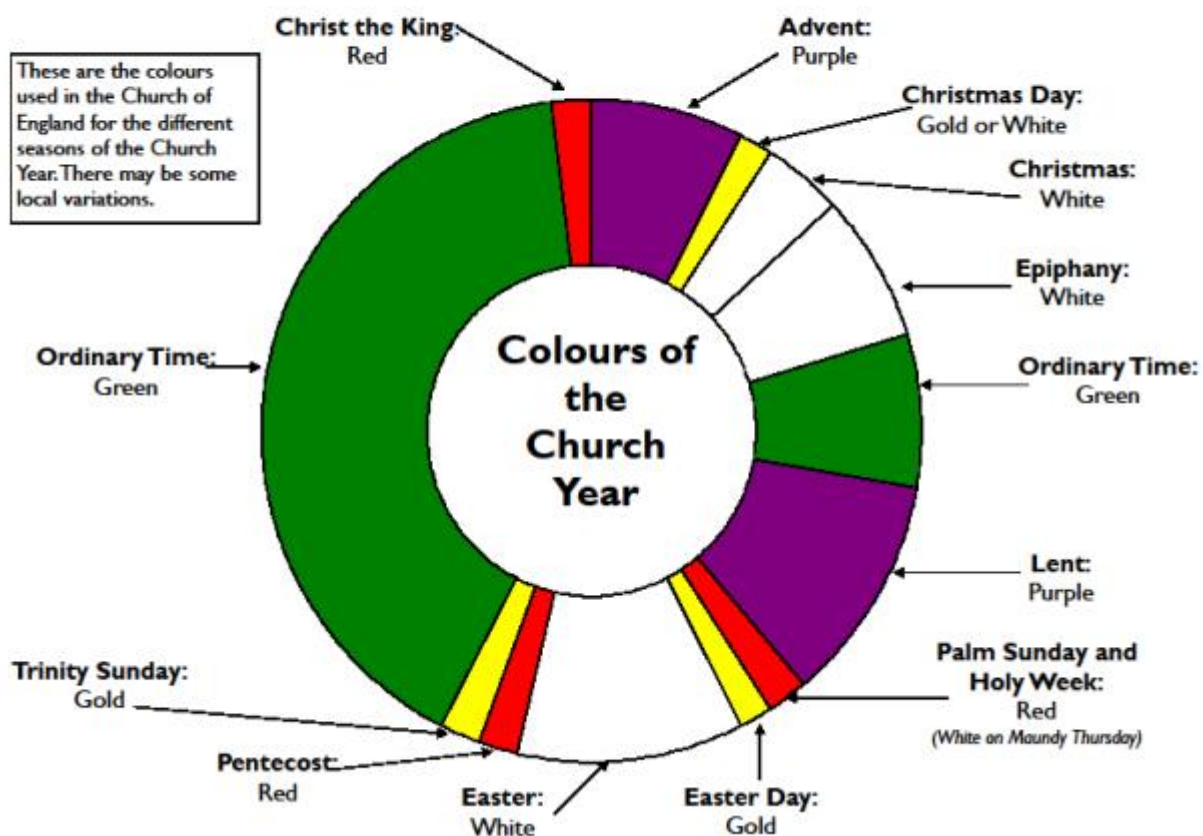
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## End of Day Prayer

Dear God, Thank you for looking after our school. Thank you that you love each and every one of us here. Help us to learn, play and share together, so that the wonderful world you have made becomes more beautiful every day. Amen.

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# Colours for the Altar and PowerPoint backdrops





Intent	Implementation	Impact
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure all children have access to current affairs.</li> <li>Provide children with opportunities to learn about and from the world we live in.</li> <li>Develop children's understanding of British values through making meaningful and relevant links.</li> <li>Encourage children to ask questions to discover more about our world and allow opportunities for children to challenge concepts, in a respectful way, with which they do not agree.</li> <li>Support children in becoming active citizens, who can evoke change and impact the world we live in.</li> <li>Provide opportunities for children to discover interests and talents.</li> <li>Develop confidence, independence and resilience.</li> <li>Develop speaking and listening skills through meaningful discussion and debate.</li> <li>Encourage awareness of others and develop tolerance of different views and opinions.</li> <li>Prepare children for life in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Weekly Picture News assembly or session, which includes current affairs and British values.</li> <li>Use Picture News discussion board and Twitter for children to share ideas and opinions with the world allowing opportunity to impact issues and evoke change.</li> <li>Children provided opportunity to question, discuss and debate. Time is given to develop skills to allow children to disagree in a respectful way, recognising opinions may differ from their own.</li> <li>Opportunities provided for children to follow-up interests and tackle issues raised.</li> <li>Picture News Paper available for reading</li> <li>Picture News displays in school.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Children have a knowledge and understanding of current affairs.</li> <li>Children live British values through personal, school and community values.</li> <li>Children lead projects to evoke change or impact the world we live in.</li> <li>Children discover interests and talents.</li> <li>Children are confident, resilient, independent learners who are keen to learn about and from our world.</li> <li>Children know they have a voice and how to use it.</li> <li>Children take social action and actively aim to improve the world around them.</li> <li>Children celebrate differences and show understanding of the opinions of others.</li> </ul> <p><i>Measured through Picture News Champions weekly document, Instagram, Picture News coverage document, SIAMS Self Evaluation document, pupil voice.</i></p>