



**HOLYCROSS**  
CHURCH OF ENGLAND  
PRIMARY SCHOOL

**POLICY NAME: Collective Worship Policy**

**DATE AGREED: February 2024**

**REVIEW DATE: February 2027**

## Collective Worship Policy

**Learning Together for Life**  
**'I have come that they may have life, life in all its fullness'**  
**John 10:10**

Our School aims to:

- Enable learners to **respect** themselves, one another and the wider community as Jesus taught his disciples to 'treat others the same way you want them to treat you' (Luke 6:31).
- Enable learners to **aspire** to be the best they can be, equipping them with knowledge, creativity and life skills, ensuring that 'whatever the activity (our learners) do it with all of their ability' (2 Ecclesiastes 9:10).
- Support, nurture and **challenge** our learners during their school journey sharing our Christian values and the message in Philippians 4:13 'I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.'
- Celebrate when our learners **succeed** and encourage them to be proud of what they achieve as the worldwide family of Christians support one another.

### Policy Statement

'Collective worship is the unique heartbeat of a Church school and is offered as part of a wider opportunity for pupils and adults to encounter faith by engaging in conversations about God, both as individuals and together' Church of England, 2021

This policy outlines the school's approach to Collective Worship.

### Aims of Collective Worship

Collective Worship at Holy Cross aims to make a major contribution to school life through:

- Helping the children to discover their place in this world
- Providing an opportunity for pupils 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
- Providing the children with a vocabulary of Worship and an experience of a wide range of worship forms, including symbols and imagery
- Providing an opportunity to celebrate Christian festivals
- Heightening awareness of the ultimate questions/ realities of life and provide an opportunity to reflect on these
- Enabling children to appreciate their worth and value to God, their community, and respect the integrity of each individual as a child of God
- Enabling children to make effective use of silence in opportunities for reflection and prayer.
- Celebrating the children's gifts, talents and achievements
- Establishing, explore and reinforce the common Christian values of the school community
- Fostering a feeling of community and belonging to a school
- Providing opportunities to empathise with the needs of others
- Encouraging respect and care for God's creation
- Fostering feelings of awe, wonder, mystery and joy.
- Providing opportunities for a variety of opportunities for spiritual, moral, social and cultural development

## **Legal Requirements**

All registered pupils take part in a daily act of Collective Worship. The headteacher, acting on behalf of the Model B Governance structure takes responsibility to ensure the legally required daily act of Collective Worship takes place. Our acts of worship are carried out in accordance with the faiths and practices of the Church of England.

Every pupil will attend daily Collective Worship unless their parents or carers exercise their rights to request their child be withdrawn from daily collective worship on religious grounds. Parents wishing to exercise this right must make their request in writing to the Headteacher. Appropriate arrangements for the supervision of pupils will be made in consultation with the Headteacher, Teachers and Parents. All children attending Collective Worship are included regardless of their backgrounds, gender, beliefs, race or ability.

## **Conduct of Collective Worship**

Collective Worship is Christian and Anglican in character, and is in harmony with the churchmanship and forms of worship of the village church – St James Church, Runcton Holme. Throughout the year, the school will attend Worship at the church, involving members of the church community.

The whole school attends daily worship, on a Friday we hold Celebration Assembly, where parents/ carers are invited to attend and celebrate the children's achievements across the week.

## **Planning Collective Worship**

Collective Worship is planned for by our RE/ Collective Worship leader, who follows.....

## **Four part model – Gathering, Engaging, Responding, Sending (GERS)**

### **Gathering**

We gather together as a community in the hall, in preparation to meet God and are greeted by a Worship Leader as we enter. The alter is set up at the front of the hall consisting of a Bible, Cross and Candle. The children sit in their class groups facing the alter. Our collective worship starts with Worship Leaders opening the Bible, standing the Cross and lighting the Candle, as this is done the following is said:

We open the Bible  
To learn about God  
We stand the Cross  
To .....  
We light the candle

### **Engaging**

We engage with the big things and the little things in life. Through listening to Bible stories we learn about the teachings of Jesus, and discuss the messages that God is sending to us. The children are encourage to share their thoughts and relate these to their own lives, thinking about how it can help them in the future.

### **Responding**

We respond to what we have heard and seen, reflecting for ourselves and as a part of our community. We are given the opportunity to worship God. We participate in choral worship – listening to and singing songs. We participate in prayer, these are led by the children – sometimes the Lord's Prayer, sometimes a chosen prayer, and sometimes the School Prayer:

Father God  
We .....

**Sending**

At the end of Collective Worship, the Worship Leader closed the Bible, lays the cross and blows out the candle to signal that our Worship is over. The children are dismissed from Worship whilst the choral worship song plays.

**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.

**Monitoring and Evaluation**

Collective Worship is monitored by the Headteacher to ensure the legal responsibilities are met, and to ensure the aims of this policy are upheld. It is important that the children enjoy Collective Worship, engaging respectfully and with meaning. The Class Ambassadors are invited to provide feedback regularly throughout the year. Staff and children are invited to make suggestions to the Lead.