

Churchfield C.E. Primary Academy



Collective Worship Policy 2025

Signed by:

G. Lloyd Head of School

Date: 1st October 2025

C. Dobson Executive Principal

Walking together in the light of the Lord, we aim to create a supportive and safe environment where we encourage each other to be the best we can be. At Churchfield we learn to take pride in our successes and aspire to make a positive difference for ourselves, the local community, and the wider world.

Worship is...

Giving honour and reverence to a supreme being.
Christian worship is concerned with bringing praise, prayer,
thanksgiving and adoration to God.
It is an activity of response: in words, actions and thoughts.

Mission statement

Collective worship plays a central part in the life of Churchfield CE Primary Academy. It is inspirational, invitational and inclusive and will lead people to a threshold where they can witness worship and join in, if they wish. Collective worship is a means by which the academy's Christian vision is expressed. As an expression of the Christian vision, ethos and spiritual life of the academy it offers the whole school community opportunities to experience, participate in and take responsibility for the living expression of Christian worship, valued and honoured through the academy's Anglican Foundation. This is set within the context of the corporate community of our academy and its historic partnership with St Augustine's Church. We affirm every individual's unique contribution, regardless of age, gender, sexuality, ability, background or religion.

Legal requirements:

Trust Deed

Our daily act of collective worship is in accordance with the Trust Deed of the academy. This requires worship to be consistent with the faith, principles and practices of the Church of England.

DfE guidance

We also take into account DfE legislation. The following link will take you to the current legislation. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/collective-worship-in-schools>

1988 Education Act

We also take into account the 1988 Education that states,

'.....all pupils in attendance at a maintained school shall in each school day take part in an act of collective worship',

And, that this should be,

'.....mainly of a broadly Christian character'

Worship and/or Assemblies

Worship is made distinct from an assembly by starting with Welcome Words and the lighting of candles. Worship ends with a prayer and the candles are blown out. It is only then that whole-school messages etc are given out.

We hold a celebration assembly in order to celebrate pupil's achievements; this is still regarded as an act of worship through our Welcome Words and by saying prayer at the end of the celebration to thank God for pupil's achievements and successes.

The right of withdrawal – see appendix

We recognise the right of withdrawal from worship for pupils at the request of parents and for staff, but encourage discussion with the relevant individuals to ensure that there is understanding of the aims and objectives of worship, and strategies for minimising the disruption caused by any withdrawals

Aims of worship

The gathering of pupils each day incorporates collective worship. Worship will be:

- appropriate to the age, aptitude and family background of pupils.
- provided in a variety of settings, groupings and timings, with a variety of leaders. We hold a weekly Worship lead by the Head of School focussing on the Value of the month, Worship in Song, Celebration (including awards for those who have been seen to be living the academy values) and two Class Worships lead by teachers and teaching assistants. The academy Worship Group plan and deliver their own worships to the whole school. We are also joined by the local clergy team and members of the St Augustine's congregation on a regular basis.

Worship provides opportunities to:

- enhance the spiritual development and response of pupils
- foster reflection, meditation, prayer and silence
- create an atmosphere in which God is both normal and natural
- foster a reverential attitude to God
- foster empathy and imagination, enabling pupils to participate in a variety of ways
- actively involve pupils in the delivery of worship in creative and imaginative ways: reading, poetry, drama, dance, quiet / silent reflection, prayer, singing
- explore and enjoy praise, prayer and the rituals of Christianity
- affirm the Christian faith and the central Christian status of Jesus as the Son of God
- affirm the Christian belief in the Trinity and explore the meaning of each person of the Trinity
- enable pupils to reflect on the experiences of Christian adherents
- foster and value a search for a faith to live by
- explore the academy's Christian values to deepen pupils understanding of them and how they relate to the /academy, local community and wider world
- learn about and reflect upon Christian teaching, Biblical material and Christian festivals, in a way that relates to the pupils' experience and to living together in community
- worship together rather than apart

- experience a broad spectrum of Christian tradition (various expressions of worship)
- inspire pupils to explore further their own faith and tradition
- encourage pupils and staff to plan, participate and lead in worship
- develop a sense of community and shared values
- consider the needs of others and to foster charitable works
- celebrate the highest achievements of the human spirit
- celebrate achievements of members of the school in every aspect of school life
- foster a thought provoking atmosphere allowing for spiritual reflection and response
- make regular use of local church buildings for worship.

Other opportunities that worship can offer are:

- to celebrate the beliefs and cultures of others particularly those represented in our academy
- to celebrate of achievements of members of the academy community
- to reinforce school expectations, good behaviour and routines
- to share local and community information

Management of worship

Ultimately the responsibility for collective worship lies with the Executive Principal and the Chair of Governors. However the role of planning, resourcing, managing and evaluating worship has been delegated to the Head of School and Assistant Principal. In addition, all teachers in a church school are 'spiritual leaders' and have a responsibility to help pupils develop spiritual awareness

Resourcing worship

Worship is adequately resourced to ensure that it is regarded as an important part of school life. Pupils are encouraged and provided opportunities to plan acts of worship, so that they have ownership of it. Our active pupil-led Worship group plan and lead worships with participation of many other pupils.

Monitoring, evaluating & action planning worship

Worship is monitored and evaluated frequently in order to ensure that it meets the needs of all who take part. All stakeholders opinions are sought including pupils, teachers, governors & parents.

Worship themes and current practice

The worship themes for each week are based around and number of resources, including but not limited to:

- Roots and Fruits
- Collective Worship for Primary Schools
- Beastly Bible Stories

- Resources provided by the Dioceses and the academy's Christian Distinctiveness Advisor

Monitoring and Review

This policy will be monitored by the Senior Leadership Team and reviewed on an annual basis. The next review is due in September 2026.

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Right of Withdrawal

Guidance for schools and academies on the right to withdrawal from Religious Education and Collective Worship March 2017

Collective Worship

The 1944 Education Act gave the right to withdraw from RE or collective worship to parents who wished their children to receive different form of RE or worship. This right is also confirmed in section 71 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998. In the case of collective worship, the government guidance document is Circular 1/94: Religious Education and Collective Worship.

Collective worship in all Church of England schools and academies should honour the school's trust deed and Christian foundations. Worship is central to school life, offering an opportunity for the whole school community to explore the distinctive beliefs and narrative that underpins the school's Anglican foundations and distinctive Christian character. Worship is the responsibility of the governing body in conjunction with the headteacher, working in partnership with the staff and the local parish church.

Our Church of England schools should strive to ensure they are consistently excellent, distinctive, and inclusive, and that the whole curriculum is underpinned by Christian values. Religious Education is an important part of the curriculum in all Church of England schools and academies. Its nature, objectives, and content should be shared with parents each term to ensure that parents are able to recognise that RE is of educational value to all pupils, whatever their belief background. In the same way, collective worship should lie at the heart of school life, proclaiming its distinctive character and faith in a way that is relevant, inclusive and that leads each pupil a little further in their spiritual journey. In this way, the likelihood for parental requests for withdrawal should be reduced. However, when they are made they must be handled accordingly to the legal guidance, while there is scope for a little realism and adaptability in order to ensure the best for every pupil.

In many of our schools within the Diocese of Lichfield, there is a large percentage of children whose families are members of another faith. It is the purpose and duty of every church school to be distinctive as a Church of England school. In each school, it is part of the mission of the church to welcome those of other faiths and no faith. In most cases, parents will have chosen the school for their child, making a specific choice of the school because of the ethos and education it offers. In a small number of cases, parents of other faiths will have been

offered a place at a church school because no other school has a place for their child within a reasonable catchment area.

The right to withdraw from collective worship should be at the instigation of the parents or pupils above the age of 16.

[The right of withdrawal from collective worship](#)

The right of withdrawal from collective worship would normally be exercised through the physical withdrawal of the pupil from the place where the act of worship is taking place. Indeed the school could insist that this is the way the right is to be implemented. If, however, both the parent and the school agree that the pupil should be allowed to remain physically present during the collective worship but not take part in it, nothing in the law prevents this.

Experience suggests that, to avoid misunderstanding, a Headteacher / Principal will find it helpful to establish with any parent wanting to exercise the right to withdrawal:

- the elements of worship in which the parent would object to the child taking part;
- the practical implications of withdrawal; and
- whether the parent will require any advanced notice of such worship, and, if so, how much.

Where parents have withdrawn their children from collective worship and request religious worship according to a particular faith or denomination, the Local Academy Committee and Principal will seek to respond positively to such requests providing:

- such arrangements can be made at no additional cost to the school; and
- that the alternative provision would be consistent with the overall purposes of the school curriculum as set out in Section 1 of the 1988 Education Act. (Circular 1/94)