

St Nicholas CE Primary Academy



“Learning, loving and encouraging through Christ.”

Collective Worship Policy

Vision Statement

St Nicholas provides a welcoming, inclusive and aspirational learning environment at the heart of its community. We nurture, encourage and support all children, adults and their families to be the best as God intended. Following God’s example of love and trust, we develop resilience and creativity in all we do.

Core Christian Values: Ambition, Community, Friendship, Perseverance, Respect, Trust.

Biblical Foundation: Inspired by Barnabas, the ‘son of encouragement’ (Acts 11:19–30), whose life demonstrates faith, trust, perseverance, compassion and encouragement—values that shape our worshipping community.



Date published	Policy review date	Agreed by	Date agreed
November 2025	November 2028	LGB	December 2025

Collective Worship Policy

Introduction

Collective Worship is the heartbeat of our school. It provides opportunities for pupils and adults to explore and live out the school's Christian vision and values, encounter the teachings of Jesus and the Christian faith, reflect spiritually, morally and socially, develop an understanding of Anglican traditions and practices, build community, foster belonging and celebrate together, and grow in appreciation of themselves, others and God.

We meet statutory requirements for Collective Worship as outlined in the Education Act 1996, SIAMS Framework, and Diocese of Canterbury Guidance. Collective Worship is Christian in nature, inclusive, invitational, and inspiring for all.

In order to know God, we must often think of Him; and when we come to love Him, we shall then also think of Him often, for our heart will be with our treasure

A little lifting of the heart suffices; a little remembrance of God, one act of inward worship are prayers which, however short, are nevertheless acceptable to God

Brother Lawrence

Aims

Our school worship is central to the life of the school and contributes to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of our pupils. We aim to ensure pupils experience worship rooted in Christian faith and Anglican tradition, reflect on biblical teaching, develop spiritual awareness, engage with prayer and reflection, celebrate achievements and community life, and recognise the relevance of Christian values in daily life.

- To explore a relationship with God in Jesus Christ.
- To reflect on values that are of a broadly Anglican Christian tradition, whilst recognising the validity and importance of other Christian denominations, religions and belief systems
- To consider spiritual and moral issues and, through reflection, raise awareness of the ultimate questions of life relating to matters of faith.
- To reflect on their own beliefs.
- To deepen and widen the experience of those of 'faith' and encourage those of 'little or no formal faith' so that they begin to feel for themselves something of what it means to worship.
- To develop an enquiring mind and express and explore their own views openly and honestly through reflection and wondering questions.
- To develop a community spirit, a common ethos and shared values.
- To foster an awareness of the world around them and a sense of their place within it.
- To develop a respect for and an understanding of different beliefs.
- To develop a sense of sharing and belonging through different groups of children coming together.
- To have opportunities to live out and explore Biblical teachings.

Organisation

All acts of worship begin at 8:55am and follow the Gather – Engage – Respond – Send model recommended by the Diocese of Canterbury.

Weekly pattern:

Monday – Whole School Worship led by clergy (Rev Chris)

Tuesday – Whole School Worship led by Senior Leaders or Headteacher

Wednesday – Phase Worship

Thursday – Class Worship (pupil-led opportunities)

Friday – Celebration Worship.

We will sometimes have guests in to lead worship – Romney Marsh Community Church – and these worships will be planned in conjunction with our worship lead and will follow the structure of worship delivered in school.

School worship

- It is all inclusive – it is for all pupils, is open to the Governing body and parents are invited to church services.
- Teaching staff are expected to attend and all other staff are welcome.
- Takes place either in the school halls, classrooms, outside areas or St Nicholas Church.
- Is planned, with specific themes, at a level in accordance with the differing age groups and understanding of the pupils attending the act of worship.
- Includes celebration in songs, hymns, readings, drama and other creative ways.
- Allows members of the school community to have opportunities to reflect, responding individually or collectively to a statement of belief, prayer, silence or reflection.
- Celebrates the achievements and learning of all pupils.

As a Church of England School, the content of our worship is organised to:

- Observe the cycle of the Church's Year – Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, Pentecost, Saints' Days.
- Use the Bible as a source of knowledge and inspiration for themes and stories.
- Learn and say prayers from a number of sources, in particular the Lord's Prayer and the Grace. Then allow for a time of silence and reflection.
- Allow opportunities to speak personal prayers aloud and have time to create prayers for the Prayer Tree or the prayer boxes in each class.
- Sing a wide variety of hymns and songs.
- Experience Christian symbols in worship and reflecting on their meaning e.g. cross, crucifix, bread and wine and candles.
- Use Psalms with simple responses.
- Celebrate Eucharist.
- Use Anglican sentences and responses (e.g The Lord is here, his spirit is with us)
- Link regularly with the congregation and Vicar of St Nicholas and Members of Romney Marsh Community Church.

The nature of Acts of Worship

Our daily act of worship should be an activity that:

- Is educational and spiritually enhancing
- Fosters a sense of community by sharing in fellowship with each other.
- Creates an atmosphere where those who wish to worship can do so.
- Introduces children to aspects of Christian worship and faith in an open and honest atmosphere.
- Encourages children to be creative, questioning and imaginative, within a Christian framework; also recognising the importance of experience, personal values and respect for the beliefs of others.
- Facilitates spiritual growth, enabling children to become true to themselves and others.
- Explores a relationship with God in Jesus Christ.
- Allows children to reflect on values that are of a broadly Anglican Christian tradition, whilst embracing the validity and importance of other Christian denominations, religions and belief systems.
- Allows children to consider spiritual and moral issues and, through reflection, raise awareness of the ultimate questions of life relating to matters of faith.
- Allows children to reflect on their own beliefs.
- Allows children to deepen and widen the experience of those of 'faith' and encourage those of 'little or no formal faith' so that they begin to feel for themselves something of what it means to worship.
- Allows children to develop an enquiring mind and express and explore their own views openly and honestly, with respect for the views of others.
- Allows children to develop a community spirit, a common ethos and shared values.
- Allows children to foster an awareness of the world around them and a sense of their place within it
- Allows children to develop a respect for and an understanding of different beliefs
- Allows children to develop a sense of sharing and belonging through different groups of the community coming together.
- Worship is invitational and children can choose to sit quietly and respectfully during times of prayer

Roles and Responsibilities

Worship Leader oversees planning, delivery and evaluation; Clergy leads weekly worship and supports Anglican identity; Staff deliver high-quality acts of worship and model Christian values; Governors monitor statutory compliance and evaluate effectiveness.

We have a dedicated Worship Leadership Team of pupils who help plan and lead acts of worship, introduce prayers, readings, and reflections, support the school in living out its Christian vision, and receive training and mentoring from staff and clergy.

Spiritual Development Opportunities

Pupils are encouraged to explore big questions and respond creatively. Opportunities include prayer spaces, reflection areas, and spiritual journaling. Many pupils choose to affirm their faith through Confirmation, supported by our strong partnership with St Nicholas Church. Links with Rev Chris and the PCC enrich worship and provide authentic Anglican practice. Regular visits to St Nicholas Church and involvement in parish worship deepen pupils' understanding of Christian community.

Inclusion

Acts of worship should include all children and the content should respect the individuality of each child. Acts of worship will be always Christian and will respect the integrity and choices of every person. Prayers will be by invitation and there will be a time for free reflection.

When planning thought should be given to SEND children, especially the VI children, to ensure they can access and engage with the stories and sung worship.

Right of Withdrawal

Although parents and carers have a legal right to withdraw their child from collective worship, by requesting and accepting a place at St Nicholas CE Primary Academy it is hoped that they demonstrate an understanding of the centrality of Christianity to the school and nature of the school as a place with religious education and collective worship in its daily life.

If you do wish for your child/ren to not be present in worship, then a formal request must be made in writing to the Headteacher. The Headteacher keeps a record of all children who withdraw from collective worship.

Monitoring and Evaluation

We monitor worship through observations, pupil voice (including Worship Leadership Team feedback), staff feedback, and governor monitoring. Findings inform future planning and school development priorities.

Self-assessment and Inspection

School Self-assessment will be completed on the SIAMS Toolkit by Headteacher and CD Leader.

Worship is inspected under S48 of the Education Act.