



## Collective Worship Policy

**Reviewed: September 2025**

**Next review: September 2026**

We are proud that our school is a church school and seek for our community to be founded upon the moral principles embraced throughout Christianity. As a school we recognise individual choice and welcome individuals from all faiths and those of none. The aim of our collective worship is to embed our school's Christian Vision as the heart of our school community.

Our vision is based on Paul's writings to the Ephesians:

### **Ephesians 3:17-19**

That Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

- We will feel loved and show love to others in our school and wider community
- We will seek to grow in our understanding of all that is around us, encouraging all to live well together
- We will be filled with His love, joy and goodness to live a fulfilled life.

The vision of the school forms the foundation and the rationale behind our decisions, policies, and procedures. Through the vision we strive for all within our school community to be able to love, grow and flourish together.

Through collective worship, we seek to share the positive influence of our school vision and allow all within our school community to live a life in harmony with the Christian teachings.

### **Inclusive.**

Our collective worship is inclusive and fully accessible to all. We understand that many of our school community come from homes of different or no faith backgrounds. During collective worship attendees are given the opportunity to reflect and ask questions, consent and dissent: participate and stand back; and to consider. Our collective worship programme is led by members of staff, children and other members of our school community. Our local Reverend supports the work of the school and is a regular attendee at collective



worship along with school governors and other members of the local community. Throughout the school year visitors may also be invited to lead collective worship in school.

At significant times in the school calendar the village hall or St Marys church to enable the wider local community to be involved in collective worship.

### **Invitational.**

Our collective worship is always invitational and provides attendees with the opportunity to engage whilst appreciating that they may have different or no faith. Attendees are always invited to pray if they wish to do so and in a way that is comfortable for them. Prayer is always accompanied by the option to reflect. Music and liturgy reflect both traditional and modern Anglican worship and are selected to link to the theme of the collective worship.

All members of our school community had the right of withdrawal from collective worship under the School Standards and Framework Act 1998. Parents wishing to exercise this right should discuss their preferences with the head teacher, including specific elements of worship they object to and the practical implications of withdrawal. The school will accommodate these requests, ensuring the child's education continues without disruption. When parents request withdrawal, the school will respect this right and discuss arrangements to best accommodate the child's withdrawal. Schools have a duty to supervise withdrawn pupils but are not required to provide additional teaching or incur extra costs.

### **Inspiring.**

We seek to make collective worship in Abberley inspiring for all. Children and adults are encouraged to ask big questions and think searchingly about faith, beliefs and philosophical convictions. Through collective worship we seek to inspire members of our school community to reflect and become courageous advocates for causes.

Spiritual development is at the heart of our collective worship and Christian distinctiveness. We seek to develop this capacity to:

- exercise imagination and creativity
- appreciate the beauty of the world
- be alive to experiences of awe and wonder
- be intrigued by mystery
- be aware that many things transcend us
- appreciate and be thankful for what is good in life
- show generosity towards others
- be self-aware
- empathise with the experiences of others
- demonstrate curiosity and open mindedness when exploring life's big questions
- love and care for yourselves
- believe in your potential to achieve
- find inner strength and resilience when facing challenges
- be comfortable with stillness and silence
- be willing to take risks
- reflect and learn from success and failure
- be ready to say sorry when mistakes are made and be willing to forgive others
- be open minded and curious when exploring life's big questions



Our school grounds are a wonderful setting for developing spirituality and prayer. There are several areas where all members of the school community have the opportunity to spend time to be peaceful and reflective and enhance their spirituality.







### Collective Worship programme.

Our collective worship programme is based on a 2-year cycle and encompasses the Christian calendar and teachings, stories and celebrations from other cultures and faiths, spirituality and British values (democracy, individual liberty, rule of law, tolerance and mutual respect for those of different faiths and beliefs).

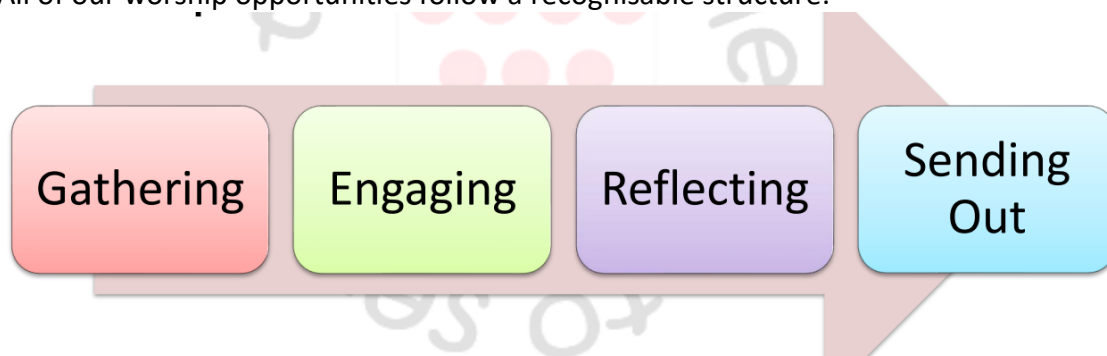
### Organisation, nature and delivery of collective worship.

Worship is defined in our school as gathering together to learn about and pay our respects to God. Collective worship takes place daily, either as a whole school, key stage or class and is an integral part of school life. This daily act of worship and reflection provides a sense of fellowship and cohesion within our school community and enables us to gather and support one another.

Our worship table is located at the front of the school hall and is covered in a cloth to represent the appropriate time period in the Christian calendar. The worship table also has a cross to represent Christianity and 3 candles to represent God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.

Purple: Penance and Preparation	Red: Sacrifice, the Holy Spirit	Green: Hope, Life and Growth	Gold: Joy and Celebration	White: Purity	No colour: Desolation
					
Purple is used for times of deep thinking and reflection. It is also sometimes used at adult funerals.	Red is used for saints' days who have died as martyrs and also represents the flame of the Holy Spirit.	Green is used to represent quiet growth during the time between festivals and seasons.	Gold used for special occasions.	White represents purity (as opposed to sin which is scarlet). It often represents a season of celebration rather than a day.	On these two days of the year the church is stripped bare of all decoration and flowers.
Used during Advent and Lent	Pentecost/Whitsun Martyr's saints' days	Used throughout Ordinary Time.	Used for special days of celebration, such as Easter Day and Christmas	Used in the seasons of Easter and Christmas and for saints who were not martyred.	Good Friday and Holy Saturday

All of our worship opportunities follow a recognisable structure.



## Gathering

At the start of each worship the 3 candles on the worship table are lit and the participants are welcomed to worship in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

For example,

**We have come together in the name of Jesus to sing praise; to listen to God's word and to pray, so that we might share God's love with the world.**

**We are welcome.**

## Engaging

The encompasses the main focus of the worship. We will be answering the question what are we looking at and learning in this collective worship?

## Reflecting

During a time of reflection, attendees have the opportunity to think about what they have learnt in collective worship, how it might impact them and how we respond to it.

There is the opportunity for silent individual prayer before everyone's prayers are brought together. Prayer is always invitational.

For example,

**Now we will gather everything that we've thought and felt together in a prayer. If you would like to make this prayer your prayer, you can join me in saying AMEN**

## Sending out

The conclusion of our collective worship.

For example,

**May God grant to the world justice, truth and peace... and make our school a place of love. Amen.**

Weekly a class based collective worship will be held to reflect on what we have learnt in collective worship over the last week and how this will influence how we live out our school vision of "Love, grow and flourish together." This reflection will follow the format of "head, heart, hands" and allow the children to discuss collective worship at an age-appropriate level.



Head – What have I learned? What can I take away?



Heart – How has this made me feel? Why do I feel the way that I do? What might be the impact for others?



Hands – What do I need to do now? What is my response? How can I change or change the situation?

These reflections will be recorded in 'Living out our vision of Love, Grow and Flourish Together' portfolio.

## Evaluation.

Regular evaluations of collective worship are undertaken by the RE lead, headteacher and the CREW and these are used to inform further planning.