



Poulton-le-Sands C.E. Primary School

Policy for Collective Worship

September 2025

Fundamentals

In this Church of England Voluntary Aided School, Collective Worship is in conformity with the ethos statement, rites, practices and doctrines of the Church of England.

The school's ethos statement is:

As a sanctuary of Christian love, we forge futures in our community. We inspire a joy of learning and a delight in one another. In faith, we are refined through challenge, growing with God, together.

The light shines in the darkness and the darkness shall not overcome it.

John 1 v.5

Recognising its historic foundation, the school will preserve and develop its religious character in accordance with the principles of the Church of England and in partnership with the Church at parish and diocesan level.

The school aims to serve its community by providing an education of the highest quality within the context of Christian belief and practice. It encourages an understanding of the meaning and significance of faith, and promotes Christian values through the experience it offers to all its pupils.

The daily act of collective worship required by law in the School shall be consistent with the faith and practice of the Church of England and the basic curriculum required by law in the school shall include religious education consistent with the faith of the Church of England. Use should be made, within the provisions of the Education acts for the time being in force, of the Parish Church or other Church of England place of worship, both for occasional acts of collective worship and for religious education.

(b) Collective Worship contributes to the working out of our Vision through our Vision Statement and the aims and ethos of the school, and therefore to the Christian Education we provide. It also contributes to the celebration and exploration of the values of our school.

(c) Collective Worship is at the heart of our school life and the Governors see it as an essential part of all pupils' education. As such we are concerned to resource it properly and ensure that it is of the highest standard. The worship and prayer life of the school is not limited to the legally required daily acts of worship. Opportunities will be taken to use prayer and meditation exercises in the curriculum generally and at the end of (morning and afternoon) sessions as well as graces before lunch.

(d) The Church of England/Methodist Heritage

Forms of worship within our denomination(s) differ and these differences enable us to provide a varied range of approaches to worship whilst remaining true to our Trust Deeds. As well as drawing on our denominational heritage, we also occasionally expect to draw on the rich tapestry of practice in the world-wide Christian Church.

Whatever the approaches, we expect that pupils will be introduced to the key beliefs and aspects of the Christian faith and helped to explore them. These would include:

- The nature of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit;
- The nature of human beings as children of God, part of his creation and, though sinful, destined for eternal life;
- Jesus as the Son of God who, through his life, death and resurrection, broke the power of evil and restored humanity's relationship with God;
- The central values of forgiveness, selfless love, redemption, goodness, compassion and charity;
- The central place of the Bible as a source of knowledge about God and Jesus and as a source of inspiration and guidance;
- The importance of prayer;
- The central symbols of Christianity;
- The cycle of the Church year.

(e) At Poulton, worship is a valued time where children and staff can encounter Jesus.

(f) We worship in Morecambe Parish Church, as a whole school weekly, and worship is led by a member of the Clergy. We also invite clergy from other denominations where appropriate e.g. Methodist, Baptist etc.

(g) The school meets together for Collective Worship but there will be times when we assemble together for other purposes, e.g. important notices and announcements. Such 'assembly' times are legally distinct from Collective Worship and parents' rights to withdraw their children do not apply.

(h) Worship in the school, while reflecting our denomination, will take into account the levels of development of pupils.

(i) The provision of collective worship conforms to Diocesan/District policy

(j) Elements of the Religious Education (RE) syllabus may be delivered through worship and so there is some interconnection. We do see Collective Worship and Religious Education as distinct from each other. In RE we learn about and from religions and in Collective Worship we practise Christianity.

2. Responsibility for the policy

(a) This policy is reviewed by the governing body each autumn term and is written by the headteacher (also worship coordinator) in consultation with our Rector and our Diocesan adviser.

(b) Mrs Victoria Bould (Ht), along with Rev Chris Krawiec (Rector) are responsible for the implementation of the policy.

3. Statement of broad aims (GBD)

Together we explore a relationship with God and how to communicate with Him. We explore the teachings of the Bible and how they apply today in our context. To explore our Christian Values and how these can be demonstrated today. What does it mean to have faith?

Together we encounter the awe and wonder of God.

Together we experience God's love. To enjoy worship, being part of the school family. We sometimes experience Eucharist as a school. This is to understand the central place of the eucharist in the life of the Church. We experience the joys, achievements and difficulties of our school community.

4. Organisation and Delivery

a) the agreed pattern of weekly worship is as follows:

Day	Time	Children	Led by
Monday	9:05-9:25 a.m.	Whole School in hall	Headteacher
Tuesday	9:00-9:20 am	Class Worship in the classroom	Class teachers
Wednesday	9.05 – 9.25 a.m.	Whole School in church	Clergy
Thursday	9:05-9:20 a.m	Singing Worship in hall (Whole School)	Teaching Staff on a rota basis
Friday	9:05-9:20 a.m.	Celebration Worship in hall (Whole School)	Deputy Headteacher

The duration of worship is seen above; however, though worship is not designated as curriculum time under current DfES regulations, it is a major aspect of the whole curriculum provided by the school. Worship is a vehicle for exploring aspects of the National Curriculum and Religious Education and frequently involves teaching and learning activities such as discussion and question and answer. Pupils may be read to or instructed or they may be asked to listen to readings or to think about and respond to a stimulus such as a work of art.

Worship is also concerned with the celebration of the curriculum, with pupils displaying or recounting details of what they have learnt. Frequently pupils are involved in leading worship or performing through dance, drama or music.

When any such activities occur, they may be counted as teaching time even though they take place within worship. It is appropriate that, in a Church school, worship and learning is seen as a seamless whole even though, for the purposes of recording teaching time, we distinguish between the two.

d) Parents are welcome to join us weekly in church. They can also attend special acts of worship, both in school and in church throughout the year. Regular events include Harvest, Nativity, Carol Service, Leavers' Service but there may be additional 'one-off' events also. We worship outdoors at least once per term in such places as the promenade, Town Hall Gardens, acts of remembrance among war graves or outside the police station, parents and the wider community are welcome to join us in these.

e) Worship time is regarded as special. For the whole school worship children make their way to the hall quietly. Music is playing as they enter. There is a worship table with a cross and a cloth. The colour reflects the Anglican calendar. There is a candle and objects to focus on. There is a screen with an appropriate image to stimulate thinking, or set the mood for the worship.

On the walls of the hall is a banner celebrating the Bible and one depicting our Christian values.

For class worship, consideration is given to where it is led from to provide a context for other activities. A candle is lit to mark the start of this special time. There is a table in each room and the cloth also links to the Anglican year. Objects may also be used for focus as may music and pictures.

f) Any necessary notices will be given by a different person from the worship leader, they will be given after closing music and will be clearly distinct from the act or worship.

g) Worship takes place in church each week as well as the Nativity, Carol Service and Leavers' Service. These are led by the clergy of Morecambe Parish Church and occasionally by a visiting member of the clergy. This is always by agreement with both clergy and school.

h) children and staff are expected to attend all acts of worship. During these there can be voluntary acts of worship e.g. receiving the cross on Ash Wednesday or receiving the Eucharist. No one is pressured into these acts and staff and pupils are asked to simply remain in their seats or approach for a blessing.

i) Parents may withdraw their children from Collective Worship.

The Worship and Religious Education provided by the school is in accordance with the Church of England Foundation. This Foundation is also reflected in the curriculum and the whole life of the school community. Since the conduct of the school as a whole reflects the Church of England ethos, removal of pupils from Worship and or Religious Education (as parents are legally entitled to do) cannot insulate pupils from the religious life of the school.

j) because of the importance placed on the worshipping life of the school, children will not routinely be withdrawn for extra tuition, music lessons etc.

5 Content and Approaches

(a) The content of worship is planned by Mrs Bould and Rev Chris. We observe the church year but also explore our values and respond to significant events both local and national e.g. Year of the Bible.

(b) The pattern includes exploration of a time limited theme (Monday), exploration of a theme within class (Tuesday), observance of the church year (Wednesday), an opportunity to worship through music and singing (Thursday) and a celebration of each other's joys and achievements (Friday).

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday are generally linked by a theme that usually runs for about half a term. We do have stand-alone worship such as Remembrance Day.

(c) Some worship is adult led, some child led and some a mixture of both. We use a range of approaches:

- Short passages of scripture
- Drama
- Singing
- Pictures
- Film clips
- Personal accounts
- Current issues
- Quiet time

6. Resources

a) There is a designated cost centre in the budget for Worship. Staff requiring items approach the headteacher and Mrs Bould decides/ orders what is needed.

b) Resources for worship are stored in the filing cabinet in the hall. These includes artefacts, CDs, posters, books. Additional books, posters, CDs etc are stored in the staff room and HT office. Some resources are stored on the staff drive under WORSHIP.

7. Consultation, Management, Recording and Review

(a) The Collective Worship coordinator is responsible for planning the term's worship, identifying the themes and stories to be used. Devising any rotas for the delivery of worship and ensuring the necessary resources are available.

(b) When planning worship, the school worship committee is involved alongside the Worship Coordinator, headteacher and Clergy. Worship is planned a term in advance.

(c) Provision is made for any staff who are new to leading worship. Attendance at relevant Worship training is provided for Worship Co-ordinator or any other member of staff who may benefit. This is identified when writing the school improvement plan so that training may be targeted to the needs of this school.

(d) Records of acts of worship are kept in the red Worship folder in the hall. In here staff write the outline of the worship they led including message, song and resources. The original plans are kept on the staff shared area under WORSHIP: current year

(e) The Worship Team assists with evaluation of worship. They will ask for a different worship to be evaluated, not always the same day. The person asked could be a staff member, visitor, governor, child, parent or clergy. The evaluation is recorded in a red book. The previous entries provide a model for the evaluation.

This book is also used to record special worship such as our outdoor worship, harvest and act of remembrance.

Worship forms part of the report to the Curriculum and Standards Committee, this is because it is central to our work. Children's responses to worship, their contribution to it and their ideas for it are part of their learning. Some aspects e.g. developing an outdoor prayer area go to the Premises Committee.

This policy is reviewed each year to reflect any changes in the school community.

The legal requirements for Collective Worship in our school

(a) Legal Basis

Collective Worship in Church Schools is governed by both the 1944 and 1988 Education Acts as well as by the Trust Deed of the School. The Collective Worship provided by the school must be in accordance with the Trust Deed, or in accordance with the tradition before we became an Aided / Controlled school.

(b) Daily Worship

Daily Collective Worship has to be provided for every pupil. This worship may take place in various groupings such as the whole school, separate Key Stage groups, year groups or school family groups or in classes, but not faith groups. Worship may take place at any point in the school day.

(c) Worship in Church

Aided Schools.

Worship should normally take place on the school premises, but may take place in Church.

(d) Parental rights of withdrawal

Parents may withdraw their children from Collective Worship. Any requests to do so should be addressed to the Headteacher.

The Worship and Religious Education provided by the school is in accordance with the Church of England Foundation. This Foundation is also reflected in the curriculum and the whole life of the school community. Since the conduct of the school as a whole reflects the Church of England ethos, removal of pupils from Worship and or Religious Education (as parents are legally entitled to do) cannot insulate pupils from the religious life of the school.

(e) Complaints about the provision of Collective Worship

It is hoped that any complaint will be resolved informally by the Head Teacher, in consultation with the Governors, and possibly with advice from the Diocese or District. However, if the complaint is not satisfactorily resolved, then formal procedures come into play and the matter will be adjudicated by a specially constituted sub-committee of the Diocesan Board of Education acting on behalf of the Bishop of the Diocese.

Date reviewed: September 2025

Signed:

Mrs Laura T. Gardner
Acting Headteacher

Next review date: September 2026