



# Collective Worship Policy

## Church of England

Approved by Governors: January 2026

Review: January 2028

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Name of school	Stock C of E Primary School
School vision	Let their light shine – Matthew 5:16

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# Chelmsford Diocesan Board of Education

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## Introduction

Our Collective Worship Policy strengthens and supports the Christian ethos of our school, explores our vision “Let their light shine,” and the associated Gospel Values of the school:

**Koinonia:** friendship, community, fellowship, equality, teamwork

**Compassion:** love, caring, kindness, charity, empathy, thoughtfulness.

**Forgiveness:** understanding, selflessness, acceptance, tolerance.

**Justice:** consideration, fairness, honesty, truth, respect

**Trust:** integrity, independence, maturity, reliability, sincerity.

**Perseverance:** determination, courage, dedication, endurance, bravery

**Thankfulness:** gratitude, appreciation, generosity, modesty

Our worship reflects the variety of traditions found in the Church of England and will recognise and follow the Christian liturgical year.

Worship in our school is not simply a statutory duty. The daily Christian act of collective worship is the heartbeat of our school, central to our ethos and is supported by all staff and governors. It makes an important contribution to the overall spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of the whole school community.

The aims and purpose of Collective Worship as defined by the Education Reform Act 1988 are as follows:

- To provide an opportunity for the children to worship God.
- To enable children to consider spiritual and moral issues.
- To enable children to explore their own beliefs.
- To encourage participation and response
- To develop in children a sense of community spirit
- To promote a common ethos with shared values and to reinforce positive attitudes.

## Legal Requirements

We seek to comply with the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 (Section 70 and Schedule 20) which requires that:

- All registered pupils (apart from those whose parents exercise the right to withdrawal) must on each school day take part in an act of Collective Worship.
- The daily act of Collective Worship should be conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Trust Deeds of the school and the ethos statement in the Instrument of Government and should be consistent with the beliefs and practices of the Church of England.
- All acts of Collective Worship in Church schools must be Christian in character. Pupils can be grouped in various ways for worship such as the whole school, year groups, tutor groups, classes, or other combinations.
- Acts of worship must be appropriate for the pupils in that they should take account of the pupils' age, aptitude and family backgrounds.
- The daily act of Collective Worship will normally take place on the school premises, but all schools are able to hold their Act of Collective Worship elsewhere (e.g. the local Parish



Church) on special occasions.

- Responsibility for the arrangement of Collective Worship in a Church of England school rests with the Local Governing Body in consultation with the Principal/Headteacher.

## Principles of collective worship

Each adult and pupil will experience worship that is truly welcoming, inclusive and exemplifying the principles of Christian hospitality (see Church of England's Collective Worship Guidance).<sup>1</sup> Collective worship therefore will be:

- **Inclusive** – Our acts of worship recognise that pupils and staff come from homes of different faith backgrounds as well as no faith backgrounds, so it will be inclusive of, and fully accessible to all. Care will be taken to ensure that language used by those facilitating worship avoids assuming faith of those participating, listening or watching.
- **Invitational** – In our acts of worship, there is no compulsion to 'do anything'. Rather, worship will provide the opportunity to engage whilst allowing the freedom of those of different faiths and those who profess no religious faith to be present and to engage with integrity. Pupils and adults will only be invited to pray and sing if they wish to do so.
- **Inspiring** – By asking and discussing big questions about who we are and what we do in worship we hope to motivate pupils and adults into action. There will be opportunities to think, reflect and ponder on their and the wider community's behaviour and actions.

## Implementation

In addition to the above, we seek to provide acts of Collective Worship that reflect the faith and practice of the Church of England. Therefore:

We use the Bible as a sourcebook for inspiration and learning and make pupils familiar with the Lord's Prayer, Psalms and other verses of scripture. We also introduce them to a variety of well-known prayers – many of which express the central beliefs of Christians throughout the ages. Our **Stock School Prayer** is also a daily component of collective worship and incorporates our Gospel Values and school vision:

*Loving God,*

*We thank you for our school community.*

*Help us to live in koinonia, sharing our lives with one another in friendship and respect.*

*Guide us to seek justice, to show compassion in our words and actions,  
and to trust you and one another each day.*

*Teach us to be thankful for all we have,  
ready to forgive as we are forgiven,  
and to persevere when learning is difficult or times are hard.*

*Let our light shine,*

*Amen.*

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2021-05/Collective%20Worship%20Guidance%2018052021.pdf>

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We use aspects of Anglican liturgy to create a framework for worship e.g. gather, engage, respond, send. We observe the cycle of the Anglican year including celebrations of the major Christian festivals.

We foster links with All Saints Church, involving the Reverend Jacqui Pearson in leading collective worship and providing coherence between worship in church and school and visit multiple times throughout the year as part of the Christian calendar.

We recognise that different members of our school community spiritually reflect in different ways. Music, story, silence, prayer, drama and other approaches are incorporated within a varied collective worship offer.

## **Connections with other Christian denominations and faiths**

The Anglican Communion sees itself as part of a global church and promotes ecumenism. At Stock, we work to promote links with other local churches and Christian organisations and welcome their clergy and leaders as contributors to acts of collective worship. We recognise that while some of our pupils and families belong to Anglican churches, many worship regularly at churches of other Christian denominations, while others come from different faith backgrounds or none. We endeavor to provide a setting in which the integrity of those present is not compromised, where everyone finds something positive for themselves and there is no pressure to participate inappropriately or to believe.

## **Rights and Responsibilities**

As established by the 1944 Act and reinforced through this policy, parents have the right to withdraw their children from Collective Worship. If parents wish to exercise this right they should email [admin@stock.essex.sch.uk](mailto:admin@stock.essex.sch.uk) FAO the Headteacher.

## **Our Collective Worship Pattern and Practice**

### **Planning**

Collective worship is planned by the Deputy Headteacher and who makes use of the Diocese of Rochester Collective Worship planning which follows a 3-year cycle. This ensures our collective worship is coherent and sequential. The planning reflects the cycle of the church year and enables us to nurture our gospel values and vision.

Spiritual growth through prayer, stillness and reflection is nurtured and is a key aspect of all collective worships.

### **Organisation**

The school meets as a community at 9am every day for collective worship. This puts collective worship front and centre of our school day and demonstrates the value and importance it is given at Stock.

### **Our collective worship is led in the following way:**

**Monday:** Headteacher Collective Worship – Introduction to the week's theme / culture & expectation setting for the school week.

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**Tuesday:** Teacher Collective Worship – Builds on the week’s theme adding depth to the concept or theme.

**Wednesday:** Singing Collective Worship – Hymns and religious songs are used to praise and worship.

**Thursday:** Deputy Headteacher Collective Worship – Concludes the week’s theme ensuring deep knowledge and reflection

**Friday:** Headteacher Gospel Values and Celebration Collective Worship – Celebrating children who have demonstrated Gospel Values throughout the week and who have ‘let their light shine,’ in other ways, in school and outside of school.

Our Year 6 Worship Leaders play a key role in the smooth running of our collective worships, putting out benches and tables and supporting with IT.

## **Contribution to Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development**

We recognise that although SMSC development should be fostered across the whole curriculum, acts of Collective Worship provide a multitude of opportunities in this area. For example, children will be encouraged to reflect on and celebrate the deeper meanings of life, consider their own behaviour and recognise the need for forgiveness, appreciate the contributions of others and respond to their needs, value their own culture and the cultures of others.

## **Monitoring and Evaluation**

Our Collective Worship practice is regularly reviewed [by the leadership team](#) through discussions with pupils and staff through observations and reflections. These evaluations feed into the planning and delivery of future worship.

Collective Worship is monitored by the [Governing Body once a term](#).

## **Inclusion**

We are committed to equality of opportunity regardless of race, gender, cultural background, ability or any physical or sensory disability. We therefore aim to make Collective Worship accessible to all and accommodate ourselves to individual needs when appropriate.

## **Implementation of Policy**

The [Headteacher](#) as Collective Worship Coordinator is responsible for this policy which will be reviewed every two years. Its implementation is the responsibility of all those planning and leading Collective Worship.

## **Review**

This policy will be reviewed every two years.