

BILLINGHAY CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL
COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY
January 2026

1. Introduction and Purpose of this Policy

- This policy outlines the procedures for Collective Worship at Billingham Church of England Primary School. It reflects the consensus of opinion of all the teaching staff, and has the full agreement of the staff and Governors.
- Billingham is a VC Church of England Primary School. In addition to the national legal requirement that there should be daily worship, as a church school, we have a Trust Deed which states that worship should be 'in accordance with the principles and practices of the Church of England' and in accordance with the School Ethos Statement in the statutory Instrument of Government. Collective Worship takes place every day for all pupils.

2. Rationale

- For our church school, Collective Worship is a highly valued part of the school day as it is the time when we gather together to affirm what is important to us, to our school and to our world. Here, the school affirms the claims of Christianity underlying the values of the school, and representing the faith stance of some teachers and children. It provides an opportunity for pupils to worship God, whilst seeking to be relevant to, and inclusive, of all religions and worldviews. It reflects our Anglican tradition as well as exploring with pupils and staff a variety of ways in which Christians worship God.
- In acts of Collective Worship in our school it is recognised that in our school community, some members will come from families with a commitment to the Christian faith, others from families with a commitment to another faith and yet others will have no particular commitment to any tradition. Therefore the content and language of collective worship allows for different levels of response. It invites rather than coerces and is fully inclusive for all.

3. Aims

Collective Worship offers a space to all to develop spiritually by coming together as a school family:

to think about God

to make a response to God

to explore a relationship with God

to enjoy being in the presence of God

to contemplate the awesomeness of God

to offer adoration, praise and thanksgiving to God

to listen to God

to explore personal belief

to feel a sense of belonging to a group that shares and celebrates together, as well as being thoughtful or sad together

to experience a feeling of connectedness to others in the world and a sense of responsibility towards them

to reflect upon ourselves, our own experiences and our lives as seen as part of a bigger picture and to appreciate cultural differences

to wonder

to gain inspiration

to receive a challenge to live ambitiously

to rejoice in being unique and precious

to respect other's views

and educationally:

to learn about different ways of worshipping and about imagery and symbolism

to learn about the faith of the local church community

to participate in marking important features of the church calendar

to explore and promote the Christian values of the school which are set out below

to use stillness and quietness

to celebrate gifts, talents and achievements

to consider spiritual questions raised in the rest of the curriculum

4. Responsibilities

- The Headteacher is responsible (under the School Standards and Framework Act 1998) for arranging daily collective worship after consulting with the governing body. Daily collective worship must be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character. The precise nature will depend on the family background, ages and abilities of the pupils.

5. Implementation

- Collective Worship will:
 - be invitational, inspiring and inclusive
 - accessible to the whole community, staff and pupils;
 - include a variety of elements at different times (inc stimuli to help pupils reflect upon and respond to the central theme);
 - involve the pupils;
 - involve visitors from outside of school including local churches in Billingham and Sleaford
 - Hook into and reflect our school Vision Statement and it's Biblical foundation. It will show how our vision is realised and help our children to flourish and uphold our Vision Statement and Christian Values.
 - Be mindful of global, national and local issues/ setting and enable our pupils to develop courageous advocacy.
- Most members of staff (teaching and non teaching staff) will attend the whole school acts of Collective Worship throughout the week.
- Acts of Collective Worship will be led by the Headteacher, members of staff, pupils and visitors inc visiting clergy.
- All acts of Collective Worship will follow the same structure providing opportunities for participants to gather, engage and respond in a variety of ways, grounded in distinctively Christian teaching linked to our school's theologically rooted vision and values:
 - i) The Gathering. A clearly visible focus point will always be in place. The welcome will include the lighting of a candle and reference to the Trinity. Welcome words will be shared as set out in Appendix 1. The root of the worship, i.e. the Bible passage or story is usually introduced during this time.
 - ii) Engaging. This is the main part in the act of worship. It will include a learning element (e.g. a story, drama, visual image, poetry etc.) and will encourage children to engage with the Bible, Christian values and teachings and with God. The passage of scripture chosen can be a whole story or a few verses and it is important that the chapter and verse from the Bible is shared with all participants. Worship is a time where all pupils and adults can lead, fully participate and engage with what is being explored.
 - iii) Responding. This is a time set aside for deep thought and reflection. All participants are given the opportunity to respond to what they have heard and seen, reflecting on how the Bible story or stimulus has resonated with, or challenged them. Searching questions can be offered as a focus for reflection. A few moments of silence and stillness will often occur. A prayer will be shared as will a song. Those participating in the worship will be invited to pray. Those that do not wish to pray will reflect on the value from the worship.
 - iv) Sending. The ending of the act of worship is to be full of purpose as people are sent out to be reflectively proactive and shine brightly. Examples of Anglican liturgy may be used (Appendix 2). This is an opportunity to send the participants of worship out with a thought or action linked to the act of worship. E.g. write how you show love on a cardboard cross to someone else.
- As we are an Anglican school we reflect aspects of Anglican worship in the following ways:

We use the Bible as a source of Christian teaching, and give it a prominent place in our worship. We follow the cycle of the Anglican year; Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter and Pentecost and some saints' days.
- We use Christian symbols and artefacts, exploring their meaning for Christians.
- At some of the acts of worship, members of the school community share the Peace.

- Collective Worship will follow our Christian values on a 2-year rolling plan set out below:

	Year A	Year B
Term 1	Service (Harvest Festival)	Thankfulness (Harvest Festival)
Term 2	Compassion (Christmas)	Trust (Christmas)
Term 3	Perseverance (Epiphany)	Courage (Epiphany)
Term 4	Justice (Lent and Easter)	Forgiveness (Lent and Easter)
Term 5	Friendship	Respect
Term 6	Miracles of Jesus	Parables of Jesus

- As a focal point in the hall, we use a table draped with a cloth which reflects the liturgical colours throughout the year. On this is a cross, a bible, a candle and other suitable items depending on the theme.
- Children are to silently lead into the hall or area for worship (inc outdoors) and sit down when instructed.
- Children are to remain silent once seated and reflect on the music being played, the focal point and the theme of the worship.
- The participant (inc pupils) leading the act of Collective Worship, will be present at the front before children enter the place of worship.
- Friday's whole school Celebration Worship will include an award for any child who demonstrates our learning behaviours in that week as chosen by any member of school staff.

6. The Organisation of Collective Worship

- Whole school in the hall every day. These are led by the HT, teaching staff, pupils and visitors inc visiting clergy and will take place at 10.00am.
- A focus on global events during worship on a Wednesday using Picture News to relate to Christian teaching and Christian values.
- One class per term will lead an act of Collective Worship inviting their parents/carers/family members to attend.
- Whole school Celebration Worship takes place in the hall on a Friday at 14:45. Parents/Carers and family members of pupils receiving an award are specifically invited to attend.
- Special acts of worship will take place in St. Michael's Church with reference to the Christian calendar.

7. Monitoring, Evaluation and Review

- The Collective Worship Council are also involved in evaluating Collective Worship.
- Governors monitor the provision for Collective Worship by asking a representative (usually a foundation governor but not exclusively so) to attend an act of Collective Worship per term and feedback to the Governing Body.
- A Collective worship diary is present in the hall and can be added to by any member of staff with photos and responses from worship.
- The school will review this policy annually and assess its implementation and effectiveness. The policy will be promoted and implemented throughout the school.

8. Parental Right of Withdrawal from Collective Worship

We acknowledge the right of parents/ carers to withdraw their child from Collective Worship and of teachers to withdraw from leading Collective Worship. We acknowledge that parents/ carers / teachers do not need to provide a reason why they wish to withdraw from Collective Worship. Should a parent/ carer wish to withdraw their child from Collective Worship or a teacher wish to refuse to lead Collective Worship that they inform the school via: kelly.sedlan@billingham.lincs.sch.uk.

We will endeavor to communicate clearly the inclusive nature of Collective Worship for all faith and none and its place within supporting the vision and values of the school. However, should a parent/ carer request for their child to be withdrawn from Collective Worship, we will not attempt to persuade them to alter their decision. If a pupil is withdrawn from Collective Worship, the school is required to provide

supervision, but should not incur any additional cost in doing so. Any queries regarding the withdrawal from Collective Worship should be directed to the headteacher in the first instance.

Appendix 1

Examples of Welcome Words to be shared:

- A) We come together now into the presence of:
God the Father who is always with us,
God the Son who offers (add in the value) and
God the Holy Spirit.
- B) We have gathered in the name of
God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
To worship together and think about our value
- C) The Lord be with you (Response: And also with you). Let us bless the Lord (Response: Thanks be to God).

Appendix 2

Examples of liturgy to be shared:

- A) Wherever you go (Response: May God the Father be with You)
Wherever you go (May God the Son be with you)
Wherever you go (May God the Holy Spirit be with you)
- B) We are sending out to love and serve one another and to make a difference in the world.
- C) Go in peace to love and serve the Lord (Response: In the name of Christ or Thanks be to God).
Amen.
- D) We go into the world to walk in God's light, to rejoice in God's love and to reflect God's glory.
Amen.
- E) The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all evermore. Response: Amen.
- F) Lord, direct our thoughts, and teach us to pray. Lift our hearts to worship you in spirit and in truth, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Response: Amen.