



# Collective Worship Policy

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## Introduction

Collective Worship is the heartbeat of the school, underpinned by the school's vision and values, where those of faith or none feel at ease. It is inclusive, invitational and inspiring, providing time to learn, reflect and leave empowered to make ourselves and the world around us that little bit better. It provides opportunities to respectfully think, question, consent, dissent, participate, consider or stand back, enabling everyone to feel comfortable whenever and wherever Collective Worship takes place.

We are a Church of England School, founded on the tenets of Christian Faith so it is therefore right that, with care and sensitivity, Collective Worship provides opportunities to encounter a Christian faith through the teachings of Jesus and the Bible. It is also the time and place for all those present to experience the season and festivals of the church year.

*By law, Collective Worship must be provided for every child every day and reflect the school's Trust Deed. Our policy sets out clearly our aspiration that Collective Worship will be a valuable and valued experience for all, whatever their backgrounds and beliefs. It is never coercive or indoctrinatory. Parents have a right to withdraw their children from all or any acts of worship. To do so, they must speak with the headteacher in the first instance.*

## Our Vision and Values

Our vision—Nurturing Excellence—and our core values of courage, compassion, and community are inspired by the life of Peter, the fisherman chosen by Jesus to lead the early Christian Church. Known as The Rock, Peter became the foundation on which the Church was built, just as our school is built upon values that guide the way we learn, grow, and live together.

A powerful image associated with Peter is that of him stepping out of the boat to meet Jesus (Matthew 14:22–33). This story reflects our values beautifully: Peter showed courage in leaving the safety of the boat, Jesus offered compassion by reaching out to help him, and the community of disciples supported him throughout.



Our school logo reflects this story. At its center is a traditional Nazarene boat, with a sail bearing the Chi Rho—the first two letters (X and P) of the Greek word ΧΡΙΣΤΟΣ (Christos), meaning Christ. Above, the North Star shines, symbolising guidance—just as it did for sailors of old, and just as our vision guides us today.

Our Northbourne North Star is Nurturing Excellence, and we pursue it by living out our values:

- Having the courage to embrace challenges
- Showing compassion to those in need
- Understanding that great things can be achieved when a community works together



To encourage and celebrate these values, we have a House Team system, each with its own colour, a motto taken from 1 or 2 Peter, and our logo as its emblem. Children earn House Points for demonstrating our values, helping to foster a strong sense of belonging and pride.



## Aims and Objectives of our Collective Worship

- Create an environment where everyone feels at ease
- A sense of belonging.
- Be inclusive, invitational and inspiring.
- Work in partnership with St Peter's Church clergy and its members.
- Explore our vision and values and how they underpin our thoughts and actions.
- Nurture opportunities to engage in reflection, stillness, meditation and prayer.
- Understand Christian faith & church liturgy (customary ideas, phrases, or observances).
- Explore Jesus' teaching, Bible stories and the Holy trinity.
- Provide opportunity for people to be inspired by Jesus's life and encounter him
- Follow the seasons of the Church year, including significant festivals
- Celebrate the diversity of cultures, lifestyles, other faiths and secular worldviews.
- Nourish spiritual (**see Appendix A**), moral, social and cultural development.
- Foster awe and wonder of the natural world & our shared responsibilities for maintaining it.
- Celebrate the academic, social, personal and wider achievements of those present.
- Encourage and support experiences of joy and sorrow.
- Increase awareness of the fundamental issues and events of life locally, nationally & globally.
- Provide a sense of occasion that is separate from the rest of the school day.
- Experience 'worship' in different ways, for example, using music, drama and stories.
- Encourage those present to be involved in preparing, participating and lead.

Just as the modern-day church seeks to evolve and develop its practices to meet the changes in our society, so too do we look to continually develop our Collective Worship; by seeking the views of all those present through feedback. We do this through discussions, observation, evaluations and reflective practice by the leaders, all feeding into the planning for future worship.

### Inclusive

We recognise that pupils, parents and staff may come to Collective Worship with no faith, a growing faith, committed faith or a different faith, so we are inclusive and fully accessible to all. It is collective in that it involves meeting, exploring, questioning and responding to others and, for some, to God. Our Collective Worship involves meaningful contributions from the whole school community, including pupils, with their own experiences.

### Invitational

Our Collective Worship is consistently invitational, with no compulsion to 'do anything'. It is an opportunity to engage whilst allowing the freedom of those with no or differing faiths to be present and to engage with integrity.

Prayer, including our School Prayer, is introduced with a form of words that invites but does not coerce those present to participate. Prayers are addressed to God reflecting the traditions and practices of the Church of England. Those who prefer not to pray are encouraged to use these times to reflect on the important messages shared in our worship.

### Inspirational

Our Collective Worship aims to be formational (character building) and transformational (character changing). It enables all those present to ask big questions about who we are, and why we do what we do. It aims to motivate those into action, into thinking differently and into reflecting on their and the wider community's behaviour and actions, leading to courageous advocacy (brave support) of causes.






## The Pattern & Planning of Collective Worship

To ensure that Collective Worship is the heartbeat of the school, our Collective Worship is carefully organised and planned so it is the thread that weaves itself through the week, pulling together all the different elements of school life, inspiring what we say and do in that time, always being driven by our vision and values.

Collective Worship is planned to cover topics and themes according to what is most appropriate to the season of the church year, global, national and local issues, special events, festivals and our school calendar (see **Appendix B**).

Daily Collective Worship takes place in the school hall, classrooms and St Peter's church, with each gathering following a pattern of '*learning from, thinking about and creating change*'. We have likened this to the analogy of *windows* (looking outwards and inwards), *mirrors* (reflecting on what we have learnt) and *doors* (creating change when stepping into world). Our Collective Worship aims to motivate those present to make change in themselves, others and/or the world around them i.e. courageous advocacy.

	 Learning from...	 Thinking about...	 Creating change...
Marvellous Monday	Hall based. Leadership/clergy led. Jesus' teaching/Bible story Church Calendar/Vision and Values	All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness <b>2 Timothy 3:16</b>	Therefore, everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. <b>Matthew 7:24-29</b>
Tuneful Tuesday	Hall based. Teacher led. Music that moves us. History, tradition & modern	Come into his presence with singing! <b>Psalms 100:1-2</b>	For you shall go out with joy. <b>Isaiah: 55:12</b>
Wonder Wednesday	Hall based. Teacher led. Big questions, issues & life events. Topical: Locally, nationally & globally	The whole earth is filled with awe at your wonders <b>Psalms 65:8</b>	The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it. <b>Genesis 2:15</b>
Thoughtful Thursday (See Appendix C)	Class based. Teacher led. Reflection on Monday's theme Talking. Thinking. Doing.	"Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you" <b>Matthew 7:7</b>	In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven. <b>Matthew 5:16</b>
Fantastic Friday	Hall based. Collectively led. Celebration and thankfulness. Achievements & accomplishments	I can do all things through Him who strengthens me. <b>Philippians 4:13</b>	"You shall love your neighbour as yourself." There is no other commandment greater than these." <b>Mark: 12:31</b>

Music and singing play an integral part of our Collective Worship, be it used to create stillness, calm, prayer and reflection or to be used to capture or inspire the joy of the moment. It often includes traditional and modern-day music and song as a way of reinforcing themes of that day/week or with a social and moral message.

## The Leadership and Evaluation of Collective Worship

Leadership of Collective Worship is a collective effort from all those in and outside our school community, be it school leaders, teaching staff, clergy, church wardens, parents or visiting speakers. Where possible we encourage those of different faiths to participate, increasing pupils' awareness, promoting respect and raising the self-esteem of pupils who belong to other faiths.

Children are given the opportunity and responsibility of helping to plan Collective Worship, opening and closing Collective Worship, bringing to the table symbols that represent elements of our worship for that day, lighting of candles, reading prayers, and using a variety of forms of greeting and sending out prayers.



## Our Understanding of Spirituality

For us, spiritual growth comes from being given the opportunities to think about **ourselves** (understanding who we are), **others** (the relationships we have), the **world's beauty** (how we respond to what is around us) and the **world 'beyond'** (experiences and ideas that are special and unusual and cannot easily be understood in ordinary ways).

Self	Others	Beauty	Beyond	Expression
<i>Individuality</i>	<i>Inclusion</i>	<i>Awe</i>	<i>Ideas</i>	<i>Activities</i>
<i>Actualisation</i>	<i>Charity Giving</i>	<i>Wonder</i>	<i>Beliefs</i>	<i>Events</i>
<i>Wellbeing</i>	<i>Community</i>	<i>Creativity</i>	<i>Faiths</i>	<i>The Arts</i>



Our logo of Peter's boat is used as a metaphor for spiritual awakening, with the Northbourne North Star being the direction we are heading:

The *boat* represents our understanding and development of *self* in the world; the *crew* represent the relationships and interactions we have with *others*; the *sea* represents the *beauty* of what us is around; the *sea current* cannot easily be seen and can be likened to things *beyond* our normal worldly experiences; the *full sail* represents the *expression* of these all things coming together in our words and actions.



Nurturing Our School Communities Spirituality		
Marvellous Monday	ELSA	<i>Residential</i>
Tuneful Tuesday	PSHE Curriculum	<i>Parliament Trip</i>
Wonder Wednesday	People who Inspire Us	<i>Plays</i>
Thoughtful Thursday	School Council	<i>Tridays</i>
Fantastic Friday	Citizenship Days	<i>School Garden</i>
Church Festivals	Peace Garden	<i>Themed Days</i>



Collective Worship Overview: Topics and Themes

Term 1		Term 2		Term 3	
Marvellous Monday	Wonder Wednesday	Marvellous Monday	Wonder Wednesday	Marvellous Monday	Wonder Wednesday
<p><b>The Words of Jesus</b> I am the Light of the World Blessed are the Peacemakers This is how you should pray Do not be worried Do not judge others A tree is known by its fruit Love one another</p>	<p>Our School Vision Disability Awareness Day International Day of Democracy School Council Elections Recycle Week Black History Month How do we keep you safe in school?</p>	<p><b>Advent &amp; Christmas</b> The coming of Jesus is foretold Zechariah and Elizabeth The angel announces good news Mary visits Elizabeth The long journey to Bethlehem Jesus is born The coming of the Magi The escape to Egypt</p>	<p>Romanian Shoe Box Appeal Remembrance Day Anti-Bullying Week Inter-faith Week Road Safety Week Human Rights Day NSPCC PANTS People Who Inspire Us</p>	<p><b>People Jesus Meets</b> Simeon and Anna The teacher in the Temple John the Baptist The tempter Nathaniel the children Zacchaeus Martha and Mary</p>	<p>Conference of Parties World Religions Day Holocaust Memorial Day Chinese New years Safer Internet Day Acts of Kindness Week People Who Inspire Us</p>

Term 4		Term 5		Term 6	
Marvellous Monday	Wonder Wednesday	Marvellous Monday	Wonder Wednesday	Marvellous Monday	Wonder Wednesday
<p><b>Holy Week &amp; Easter</b> Jesus enters Jerusalem Jesus clears the temple Jesus and the Last Supper Jesus is betrayed Jesus is crucified The risen Jesus meets Mary The risen Jesus meets Thomas Jesus ascends to heaven</p>	<p>Lent and 40 Acts of Kindness International Woman's Day How do we keep you safe in school? Fairtrade Fortnight People who inspire us</p>	<p><b>The Parables of Jesus</b> The wise and foolish builders The Sower The good Samaritan The mustard seed The yeast The lost sheep The Pharisee and tax collector The prodigal son</p>	<p>Earth Day Deaf Awareness Day Walk to School Week School Council Staying Safe online</p>	<p><b>The Miracles of Jesus</b> Jesus &amp; the wedding at Cana Jesus meets the centurion Jesus calms the storm Healing of the paralysed man Jesus feeds 5000 people Jesus Walks on water Jesus heals 10 lepers The enormous catch of fish</p>	<p>Being proud of who we are Refugee Week Gypsy, Roma, Traveller Month How do we keep you safe in school? Fairtrade Fortnight People who inspire us</p>

Reflective Songs	Worship Songs 1	Worship Songs 2	Loud Songs	Themed Songs	Other	Just For Fun
<p>Here I am to Worship Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God This Little Light of Mine Here I am Lord Make Me a Channel of Your Peace Think of a World Our Father (Lord's Prayer)  Think of a World Without Any Flowers Be Still for the Presence of the Lord</p>	<p>10,000 Reasons Sling Shot City on a Hill Every Step My Lighthouse You Shall Go Out with Joy Shine Jesus Shine I will Sing Your Praises</p>	<p>Let Love Shine Through One More Step Along the Road I Go Give Me Oil in My Lamp Colours of Day (Light Up the Fire) Thank you, Lord,</p>	<p>Make a Melody in my Heart Sing God Who Made the Universe I Reach Up High Who's the King of the Jungle I'm Gonna Jump Up and Down Oi, Oi, We Are Gonna Praise the Lord 10, 9, 8... God is Great If I Were a Butterfly</p>	<p>World in Union I'd like to Teach the World to Sing Count on Me Build it High Stand by Me Lend a Hand Stronger Wonder</p>	<p>Sing One and a Million Love Shone Down Something Just Like This Let Love Shine Through Thank your Lucky Stars</p>	<p>Ping Pong Hey Mister Miller Gospel Medley Let's Start to Sing I'm Alive Alert Awake Enthusiastic</p>










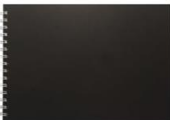
- Notes: 1. We use Roots and Fruits 2 by Shahne Vickery as useful resource for much of our planning  
 2. There is more content in this plan than there are weeks, so judgements are made for what works best for that term  
 3. Some of the Wonder Wednesday themes may move between terms, depending on when a local, national or global event takes place that year



### Thoughtful Thursday

*These Collective Worship are classroom based and follow up on a theme or topic from Monday or Wednesday. They are an opportunity to discuss and reflect on what has been previously learnt and consider how we might bring change to ourselves, others, or the world because of what we have learnt and thought about. Most sessions will use a 'Big Question' to help generate discussion.*

Most sessions follow this structure:

 <p>Gathering together...</p>	 <p>Learning from...</p>	 <p>Thinking about...</p>	 <p>Creating change...</p>	 <p>Sending out...</p>
<p>This is when the leader/s help settle those present, ready for the Collective Worship. This may be through music, words, actions, symbols. The expectation is that everyone understands this a special time.</p>	<p>This is when those present recap on what they have learnt or been shown earlier in the week, often using the visuals from the previous Collective Worship. Where appropriate, links to our vision and values are made.</p>	<p>This is when those present reflect on what they have learnt, often using the 'Big Question' from the previous Collective Worship to generate discussion. Where appropriate, links to our vision and values are made.</p>	<p>This is when those present consider what we may do differently because of what they have learnt or thought about. The expectation is that everyone contributes, often placing glass pebbles to symbolise their offering</p>	<p>This is when the leader/s draw together what has been learnt, thought and actioned and encourages those present to go out and 'do'.</p>
 <p>Getting ready</p>	 <p>Things we have learnt</p>	 <p>Questions/thoughts we have</p>	 <p>Things we will do</p>	 <p>Our class jotter</p>

We like to capture, reflect and look back on what we have shared as a class during our Collective Worship. So we use post-it notes, occasionally accompanied with a photo or collective piece of writing, to show what we have done in a large class jotter. We sometimes use this approach in RE lesson when the work has been discussion based, rather than written work. *Often the teacher or teaching assistant will be a scribe for what the children have said so they can focus on the thinking rather than the writing.*



