



Collective Worship Policy

'If you have faith as small as a mustard seed nothing will be impossible for you'
Matthew 17:20

GDPR

Data will be processed to be in line with the requirements and protections set out in the UK General Data Protection Regulation.

Policy to be reviewed every 3 years
Reviewed by Sonya Campbell – 7th July 2025
Reviewed by Governors: Alistair Gibb – 18th September 2025
Next review date: Summer 2028

'If you have faith as small as a mustard seed nothing will be impossible for you'
(Matthew 17:20)

St. Bartholomew's C of E Primary School has a clear vision underpinned by a set of Christian 'CARES' values. Our school vision - 'If you have faith as small as a mustard seed nothing will be impossible to you' - is illustrated in the gospel of Matthew (17:20), when Jesus restores the health of an unwell child. The idea that even small faith can lead to great impact and change - "move mountains" - is regularly referred to in our acts of Collective Worship [\(CW\)](#).

RATIONALE

Collective Worship (CW), and school's policy, strengthens and supports the distinctiveness of our school, reaffirms our vision and associated C.A.R.E.S. values and celebrates the role each 'learner', child and/ or adult, has to ~~be~~ play in our school family and their local, national and global community.

We ensure that CW is invitational and inclusive, offering an opportunity to take part whilst allowing the freedom for those of other faiths and none, to be present with integrity. We value the chance to be together and reflect on the values that are part of our foundation as a Church of England school.

Our daily acts of CW make an important contribution to the overall spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of the whole school community. We want pupils to gain a rich experience and understanding of Christianity. Children (and adults) are given time to contemplate and develop spiritually as they consider their connection to others and grow in love and service - in line with our Christian vision.

Our weekly schedule includes CW planned to provide a source of interesting and thought-provoking knowledge to inspire discussion around current issues - from school, National and global perspectives; opportunities are regularly given to reflect on the beauty, joy and troubles of the world in which we live and with reference to 'what the bible says' - helping pupils appreciate that we are 'stewards' of God's world. This is important to all members of our school community.

Time is also given to celebrate the accomplishments of members of our school family, and our schedules take into account the seasonal festivals of the multi-faith calendar and other national events which encompass our Christian values.

The foci and/ or theme for CW at St. Bartholomew's CE Primary School is carefully considered with a view to:

- consistently sharing and exploring the school's vision and how this links with our CARES values;
- helping pupils and adults appreciate the relevance of faith in today's world by encountering the teachings of Jesus and the Bible and developing an understanding of the Christian belief;
- bringing children together, enabling them to experience the security of belonging to a community with an identity of its own;
- offering the opportunity for all pupils and adults to grow spiritually through experiences of prayer, stillness, worship and reflection;
- enabling all pupils and adults to appreciate that Christians worship in different ways, for example using music, silence, story, prayer and reflection;
- Enabling pupils to develop skills through engaging in the planning, leading and evaluation of CW in ways that lead to improving practice.

RATIONALE - LEGAL

- The law requires the Headteacher and Governing Body to provide a daily act of CW which is in line with the schools Trust Deed.
- Parents have the right to withdraw their children from acts of worship. We will discuss any such requests with parents / carers.
- The daily Act of CW should be conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Trust Deeds of the school and should be consistent with the beliefs and practices of the Church of England.
- All acts of worship must be Christian in character.
- The daily act of CW will normally take place on the school premises, but all schools are able to hold their Act of CW elsewhere on special occasions, e.g. the local Parish Church.

Planning Collective Worship (CW)

We recognise the importance of marking out the act of CW from other assembly activities. A 'worship' planning group meets once a term, led by the CW co-ordinator. The meetings are an opportunity to review and evaluate the last half-terms 'acts' and to plan the next theme(s) and weekly schedule.

Over the course of the academic year, as well as reflecting on moral values - such as compassion, gratitude, justice, humility, forgiveness and reconciliation - we aim for our programme to develop virtues such as resilience, determination and creativity, that develop character and contribute to academic progress.

Each person leading worship is expected to plan high quality acts of CW. We encourage a 4-stage structure of planning including 'Gathering' 'engaging' 'responding' 'sending'.

The programme of acts of CW is coordinated by Mrs Campbell.

Specific time is set aside for planning the half-termly theme and schedule

The views of pupils about CW are sought through surveys, the Schools Council and CW 'listening' group. Pupils are also encouraged to be involved in the planning, leading and monitoring of CW.

Our pattern of Collective Worship

Acts of worship generally develop thematically over a half-term/ term with consistent, regular links, and reference to, the school's vision and values and acknowledging the pattern of the church's year. Our management of CW, enables a range of representatives of our school community, to take an active role in planning, leading and evaluating.

We encourage staff presence and participation in daily acts of CW. We also invite - and promote participation from - parents, governors, members of the local community, local churches and other visitors, to take part in CW on a regular basis.

Owing to pupil numbers and the logistics (and size) of our school hall, daily Acts of Worship take place for approximately 15 - 20 minutes a day in the hall as key stage groups or in individual classrooms. EYFS begin the year with acts of CW held in their class areas and then they join KS1, as/when the EYFS Lead thinks the children are ready.

We aim to signify this special time, e.g. by lighting a candle and asking children to reflect quietly. Children are asked to enter the hall and leave quietly, enabling them to listen to selected music as they gather and further reflect as they leave.

Weekly Timetable - overview: (see Appendix 1)

Monday	Whole school CW - 'Picture News', led by Head Teacher or SLT with Year 6 children / CW group. Alternate key-stages in the hall or in class Hall timings: 9.00am <u>start</u> - approx 9.20am (KS2); 10.30-10.45 (EYFS, KS1)
Tuesday	KS2, visitor-led CW - 9.00 to 9.20am KS1, 'Open the Book' (visitor group) - 10.30 to 10.45am
Wednesday	KS2 singing CW, 9.00 to 9.20am KS1, class-based CW 10:30 to 10:45am
Thursday	'Well Done' achievement/ values-based CW 9.00am to 9.30am (EYFS/ KS1 and KS2 alternate) Class-based CW when not in the hall - 'Picture News' Reflection
Friday	EYFS/KS1 singing CW, 10.30-10.45am Class-based KS2 CW 9.00-9.20am

We have a well-established, highly competent team of visitors who understand the educational aims of CW at the school and fully support this. Each class has an area dedicated to CW equipped with a cross, candle and Bible to support class-based CW. Daily, at lunchtime and/or end of the day, prayer is shared in each class.

The whole school community participates in acts of CW at St. Bartholomew's Church to celebrate key points in the calendar - namely, Harvest, Easter and Christmas. Upper keystage 2 also hold a service at the church to celebrate the children leaving our school and preparing for the next phase of their educational journey.

Monitoring and evaluation

At St Bartholomew's C of E Primary, we regularly evaluate CW and the impact it has on the school and its wider community. All leaders of CW are asked to evaluate continuously, reflect after every worship, to develop and improve their practice.

Monitoring of CW, is undertaken by the lead member of staff, the school leadership team, pupils and governors. Over-seeing and undertaking monitoring activities is a specific responsibility of the Foundation Governor and is reported to the whole governing body as part of school's assurance.

Jasmine Austin, as one of our Foundation Governors, fulfils this aspect of her wider role through school visits and meetings with the CW co-ordinator.

More specifically, monitoring activity includes the following:

- Regular observation of CW helps inform and support the school's self-evaluation.
- Pupils are involved in evaluating CW through feedback in weekly class worship, questionnaires and pupil conferences.
- Half-termly scheduling and the thematic focus being developed is evaluated at the start of the following half-term.

- We also welcome the contributions of parents and carers, through our suggestion boxes and surveys.

Worship is independently inspected by law under Section 48 of the Education Act 2005 in consultation with the Diocese of Leicester (SIAMS).



DAY BY DAY – WEEKLY PLAN

Appendix I

Collective Worship

10.30 - 10.45

12.00 - 1.00

3.10 / 3.15

M O N D A Y	9.00-9.30am KS2 CW Alternate hall/class		EYFS/KS1 Alternate weeks hall/class		L	
T U E S D A Y	9.00-9.30am KS 2 Class visitor led		EYFS/KS1 OTB		U	
W E D N E S D A Y	9.00-9.20 KS2 singing CW		EYFS/KS 1 Class CW		N	
T H U R S D A Y	9.00-9.30am Alternate weeks Well Done CW Parents invited / class CW				C	
F R I D A Y	KS2 class CW		EYFS/KS1 singing CW		H	