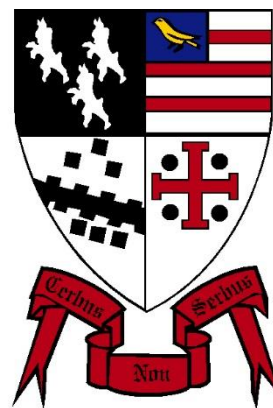


Grantham Villages' CE Primary Schools Federation



Marston Thorold's Charity Church of England
Primary School

Collective Worship Policy

Approved by:	Executive Headteacher
Review date:	February 2026
Next review due by:	February 2029

Our Vision for Marston Thorold's CE Charity Primary:

Through our Christian Values and the legacy of Sir John Thorold, we strive to create an inclusive nurturing family where everyone can flourish, unlock their potential and widen their horizons.

Faith inspires all that we do, ensuring we become responsible global citizens who promote equality and celebrate individuality.

Our Vision for St Sebastian's CE Primary:

Through our Christian Values, we strive to create an inclusive nurturing community where everyone can flourish, unlock their potential and widen their horizons.

Faith inspires all that we do, ensuring we become responsible global citizens who promote equality and celebrate individuality.

Aims

It is our aim that at Marston Thorold's Charity Church of England School and St Sebastian's CE Primary that worship should:

- Explore the school's vision and how that underpins shared values and virtues. In doing so, it will reflect on moral values and our Christian values of: *thankfulness, perseverance, compassion, creativity, aspiration and respect*.
- Help pupils and adults to appreciate the relevance of faith in today's world by encountering the teachings of Jesus and the Bible and developing understanding of the Christian belief in the trinitarian nature of God.
- Offer the opportunity, without compulsion, to all pupils and adults to grow spiritually through experiences of prayer, stillness, worship and reflection.
- Enable all pupils and adults to appreciate that Christians worship in different ways, for example using music, silence, story, prayer, reflection, as well as through the varied liturgical and other traditions of Christian worship and festivals.
- Explore a variety of ways of praying and introduce children to some well-known Christian prayers, e.g. Lord's Prayer.
- Enable pupils to develop skills through engaging in the planning, leading and evaluation of collective worship in ways that lead to improving practice.
- Encourage children to reflect on the puzzling questions that life poses and to respond to the wonder and mystery of the world around them.
- Celebrate the gifts that each child brings to the school community, recognising the uniqueness of each individual made in the image of God.
- Foster an appreciation of the created world and an awareness of our responsibility for it.
- Encourage children to participate in worship through identified Worship Leaders who contribute to the delivery of worship and by engaging as many children as possible.

- Enhancing and developing children and staff's understanding of spirituality through reference to our school definition and use of 'mirrors, windows and doors'.

Legal Framework

There must be a daily act of collective worship for all pupils which takes account of their age and aptitude. (Education Reform Act 1988). Parents have the right to withdraw children from collective worship and suitable arrangements should be made to accommodate these children. Since this is a church school however, worship is central to its life and work and is regarded as a very important part of children's education.

The school applies the following definition to the term collective worship:

Collective Worship is a time when the whole school, or groups within the school come together to consider and reflect on common values, issues and interests and offer learners opportunities to engage in relevant and meaningful experiences which support their spiritual, moral, social and cultural awareness and development.

The Daily Act of Worship

Whole school Collective Worship is held at 1.05pm every day and lasts 25 minutes.

Worship begins with the children entering that hall accompanied by music to encourage an atmosphere of reflection. Pupils should enter calmly, quietly and orderly, reflecting the nature of the occasion and adults act as role models in this respect. Worship is held in the hall, where there is a wooden cross and bible as a focal point and candles are lit to represent the Trinity at the start of each worship. The worship table is positioned by the children and the tablecloth is in liturgical colours, mirroring the church year. A Bible, a cross and three candles are present.

The Collective Worship is introduced by the Collective Worship leads and the leader of the worship lights the candles. The candle is lit to welcome God into the worship, signaling that it is a time of reflection. A hymn or a song is usually sung. At the end of the Collective Worship, the children are asked to bow their heads to pray or take the time to reflect quietly and a prayer is shared.

The organisation of Collective Worship provides a rich variety of experiences and forms of expression such as art, drama, music and story. It also supports and offers opportunities to develop speaking and listening, presentation and performance skills.

Members of staff, church clergy and other visitors are invited to lead and share acts of worship. Parents and families and visitors are welcome to join in our collective worships where possible. The children also attend at least four services in Church each year: a Christmas Service, Harvest Festival, Easter Service and Leavers Service, led by the local vicar.

Our worship has 3 underlying principles:

1. It is inclusive and contributes to the spiritual flourishing of all pupils and adults. It also contributes to the moral, social and cultural development of all pupils
2. It is invitational and respects the dignity of all participants
3. It is inspiring and offers a range of experiences of Christian worship

It is invitational

Acts of collective worship will:

- ❖ nurture and maintain the dignity of the image of God in everyone through working for social justice
- ❖ encourage pupils to consider the needs of others through charitable service and courageous advocacy;
- ❖ nurture reflection, stillness, meditation and prayer;
- ❖ provide pupils and adults with (age-appropriate) opportunities to explore the spiritual dimension of their lives through music, images and words.
- ❖ provide a sense of occasion that is separate from the rest of the school day;
- ❖ foster an appreciation of the natural world and our shared responsibilities for maintaining it;
- ❖ develop clear partnerships between worship in the school and the wider community.

It is inclusive

Our understanding of Christianity is that it is an inclusive faith which mirrors the attitude of Christ in the Gospels. Thus, we welcome children and adults of all faiths and none to our worship. Through their Christian character, our acts of collective worship will:

- ❖ recognise and celebrate the diversity of cultures, life styles, faiths and beliefs which exist in our school and local community;
- ❖ have an atmosphere in which everyone feels valued and safe;
- ❖ be appropriate for every student to attend;
- ❖ focus on issues and experiences which are relevant to the pupils;
- ❖ foster active roles of pupils, parents and members of the local community – in preparation, participation and leadership.

It is inspiring

Our acts of collective worship provide wider opportunities to:

- ❖ promote wide ownership of our Christian vision;
- ❖ assist learners to have increased awareness and to reflect upon fundamental issues about life;
- ❖ enhance, complement and extend curricular work;
- ❖ develop pupils' understanding of the Christian faith and Church (Anglican) practice through appropriate Biblical and liturgical content;
- ❖ encounter and explore Jesus' teachings and the trinitarian nature of Christian faith;
- ❖ identify opportunities for Christian celebration which can be associated with other school events;
- ❖ include appropriate references to and elements of other faiths and secular worldviews;
- ❖ include opportunities to celebrate the academic, social, personal and wider achievements of pupils.

Right to Withdraw

We acknowledge the right of parents/guardians to withdraw their children from Collective Worship and of teachers to withdraw from leading Collective Worship. We acknowledge that parents/guardians/teachers do not need to provide a reason why they wish to Collective Worship. Should a parent/guardian wish to withdraw their child from Collective Worship or a teacher wish to refuse to lead Collective Worship, we ask that they inform the school [e.g. via the enquiries@ email address].

We will endeavour to communicate clearly the inclusive nature of Collective Worship for all faith and none and its place within support the vision and values of the school to ensure that parents are in possession of all the necessary information. However, should a parent/guardian request that their child 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 so doing*.

Any queries regarding withdrawal from Collective Worship should be directed to the Headteacher in the first instance, and thereafter to the head teacher.

Inclusion and Equal Opportunities

We are committed to equality of opportunity for everyone, including those who share protected characteristics. We therefore aim to make collective worship accessible to all and accommodate individual needs when appropriate. **Please see our Accessibility Plan, SEND policy and Inclusion / Equality Policy for further information.**

Themes

The themes of our collective worship are planned to reflect our value focus for the term are where appropriate linked to the church calendar. Those leading the worship are encouraged to relate their worship to the theme as outlined in the timetable. The pattern is flexible as on occasion it is recognised that worship will need to respond to local or national events.

We have added in significant dates in the Christian year and recognise days of particular importance such as Remembrance Day. We are also able to respond to local, national or world events (or a need from the children), that merit reflection and prayers.

Displays are used to support learning and understanding from Collective Worship. The Value display board is updated termly to reflect the current focus and reminds pupils of key messages.

At least once every big term, Worship Leaders deliver the worship with support from staff. Children are encouraged to participate as much as possible.

Prayer and Reflection

Collective worship always includes a prayer and/or reflection including choral worship. Children are often encouraged to reflect or pray quietly before a joint prayer is read. A range of prayers including the Lord's Prayer and our School Prayer are used. They are introduced in an appropriate manner. Grace is said before the children get ready for lunch.

Organisation

Our collective worships are held daily and are attended by all. The collective worship themes are based on our vision and values:

Term	Value	Links to the School Vision	Links to Collective Worship/whole school events
Autumn 1	Thankfulness	... <i>the legacy of Sir John Thorold... nurturing family</i> <i>nurturing community</i>	Harvest, World's Biggest Coffee Morning, Black History Month
Autumn 2	Compassion	<i>Faith inspires all that we do...promote equality and celebrate individuality...inclusive, nurturing family</i> <i>'Encourage one another and build each other up.'</i> <i>'Love your neighbour as yourself.'</i>	Remembrance Day (Anti Bullying Week w/b 10 Nov, Diabetes Day and Children in Need - 14 Nov, Christmas Jumper Day 11 Dec
Spring 1	Aspiration	... <i>flourish..</i> <i>unlock their potential and widen their horizons...</i>	(Science Week 6-9 Jan, 9 – 13 Feb- Children's Mental Health Week)
Spring 2	Perseverance	 <i>unlock their potential and widen their horizons...</i> <i>'Encourage one another and build each other up.'</i>	Easter/Lent challenge starts 23 Feb, Walk to School week 18- 22 May)
Summer 1	Respect	... <i>create an inclusive, nurturing family/community...</i> <i>promote equality and celebrate individuality</i>	DT Week 2- 5 Jun, Christian Aid wk 10 – 16 May)

Visits and Visitors

As part of the curriculum, visits will be arranged to provide firsthand experiences and to help children gain a greater understanding of the variety of places of worship. Visitors from different faiths are welcomed to share their experiences and knowledge – their role is to educate not evangelise. Marston Church/St Sebastian's Church is visited regularly with children, staff and parents contributing towards the Harvest, Christmas, Easter and Leavers' service.

Monitoring and Review

Foundation Governors have a role monitoring collective worship in school. Senior leaders monitor collective worships. The Executive Headteacher will review this policy every three years and update, modify or amend it as it considers necessary to ensure that the policy meets the needs of the schools in the Federation.

Role of the Co-Ordinator

The co-ordinator is responsible for supporting staff in their planning of worship where necessary. The co-ordinator is also responsible for organising and replenishing resources and for monitoring all aspects of worship within the school.