Oldswinford Church of England Primary School

'Believe, achieve and shine brighter together'

Collective Worship

Approved by the Governing Body: November 2025

Written by E Game: October 2025

Vision, Values & Ethos

We fully embrace our distinctive church school ethos and wholeheartedly promote the whole child and the fullness of life, as set out in our ethos, vision and values:

'Believe, achieve and shine brighter together'

God is Love and at Oldswinford Church of England Primary School we believe that this love inspires us all to believe, achieve and shine brighter together.
We believe that there is a light which shines within each of us – a light of love that has been given to us by God, which we should use to help us achieve great things. We believe it is our job to help that light to shine in all that we do and all that we try to do.
The theology that underpins our vision is interlinked as we know we cannot achieve one without the other. With this guidance and belief in ourselves and God, we can and will achieve. At Oldswinford, we know we are not alone and by enabling our own lights to shine we empower others to do the same.

Believe

'Everything is possible for one who believes' Mark 9:23

As a Church of England school we offer all children an invitation into the Christian faith, a chance for them to develop spiritually as well as intellectually, socially and morally. We want everyone at Oldswinford to believe in their own abilities, the abilities of others and to persevere when things are tough. We encourage them to aim high and follow their dreams. We want them to have the confidence to stand up to injustices, be respectful and to make wise choices.

Achieve

'Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart' Colossians 3:23

We have high aspirations for all our learners and believe that every child should have the chance to reach their potential. We recognise that achievements come in many guises and we are passionate about celebrating each child's individual talents. We want to ensure our children are resilient and prepared for the next steps in their learning journey and that they become well-rounded and respectful citizens who have all the skills and values they need to flourish and be happy.

Shine brighter together

'Let your light shine for others, so they may see your good works' Matthew 5:16

We believe that we all belong to one inclusive family and each of us has an important part to play. We understand the need for our children to be courageous advocates especially when caring about our world and the communities around us. As individuals we are diverse, unique and special but together, with God, we can be exceptional.

Our vision and 7 key Christian values of love, respect, trust, courage, forgiveness, generosity and joy enable us to 'believe, achieve and shine brighter together'.

Definition:

Collective worship provides a space and a place for the telling of the Christian story, the mutual giving and receiving of worth as well as times of reflection and prayer. At its best, collective worship is inspirational and transformational.

Rationale:

At Oldswinford CE Primary School collective worship is central to the life of the school. It reflects our Christian foundation and character, offers opportunities for spiritual growth, and supports our vision and values. We believe that worship is a time for pupils and staff to come together to explore, experience and respond to Christian belief, in a way which is invitational, inclusive and inspiring.

We are a community which is inspired by the Christian understanding of God as Trinity: God the Father, the source of all being and life; God the Son, who reveals God's love by his life, death and resurrection; and God the Holy Spirit, who makes Christ known in the world. The fundamental part that worship plays in the life of our school requires that it is given the highest priority and there is an expectation that *all* members of the community (children and all staff) will be present other than in the most exceptional circumstances.

Principles of Collective Worship

At Oldswinford CE Primary School collective worship in our school will be:

- Distinctively Christian: reflecting the Church of England's tradition; using Christian language, symbolism; drawing on the Bible; reflecting the Christian liturgical calendar.
- Invitational: pupils and staff are encouraged to participate, but not compelled. There is respect for individual beliefs.
- Inclusive: welcoming to all, regardless of faith background or none; supporting those who wish to observe worship and those who do not.
- Reflective and spiritual: times of prayer, silence, reflection, music, story, liturgy, and response.
- Connected to our vision and values: using worship to reinforce our school's Christian vision, values, ethos and to enable spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

It will usually take place at the end of the day but could take place at any time.

Legal Framework

The legal requirement for collective worship is set out in **Section 70 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998**, which requires maintained schools to provide a daily act of collective worship for all pupils. In Church of England schools, collective worship must be **in accordance with the tenets and practices of the Church of England**, and distinctively Christian in form, character and content.

The 1988 Education Reform Act states parents have the right to withdraw children from collective worship and suitable arrangements should be made to accommodate these children. However, as collective worship occupies such a central place in the life of the Church school, there is an expectation that parents wishing to request a withdrawal will meet with the head teacher to discuss their concerns and requirements.

The governing body and Headteacher share responsibility for ensuring the statutory requirement is met.

Collective worship may take place at any time during the school day and in different groupings

Aims of the Policy

Collective Worship at Oldswinford Church of England Primary School aims to:

- provide an experience of worship that will offer opportunities for those present to respond to the presence, power and peace of God
- evoke a sense of beauty, awe and wonder.
- enable children to become familiar with the Bible and grow in their appreciation that for Christians it is God's word.
- provide opportunities for reflection, participation, challenge and enjoyment where all present can be actively involved and develop their own spirituality.
- help children to become familiar with Christian language and symbolism and the cycle of the Church year so that they are offered a pattern of meanings and a framework into which they can begin to integrate experience.
- explore a variety of ways of praying, giving children the opportunity to form their own prayers and introduce them to some well known Christian prayers, as well as a variety of prayers of thanksgiving before mealtimes and home time.
- offer opportunities to all children and staff to develop their skills in planning, leading and evaluating the impact of school worship.
- strengthen and support the school community, giving expression to, and reaffirming, the core Christian values which underpin the school's vision, policies, curriculum and moral code.
- develop a sense of self-worth and celebrate the gifts that each child and adult brings to the school community, recognising the uniqueness of each individual made in the image of God
- reflect on the puzzling questions that life poses and learn to appreciate the significance of mystery i.e. that we can't understand and explain everything
- foster a concern for others within the school community and wider world.
- deepen appreciation of the gift of the natural world and the importance of acting responsibly toward the environment
- encourage respect of other people's religious beliefs and practices.

Equal Opportunities

We believe:

- that the broad principles in this policy should be applied equally to all pupils, regardless of ability, gender, race or culture
- that there are certain non-negotiable standards of behaviour towards others for example; politeness, respect, kindness and thoughtfulness, that we expect all our pupils and school community to show to enable children to engage in learning
- that vulnerable children are entitled to particular consideration to ensure that they do not become targets for bullying or unkind comments. Staff should take additional care to reinforce the development of their self esteem in order that they can achieve their maximum potential.
- all children should be treated with respect and staff need to be sensitive to cultural differences.

Developing Spirituality

At Oldswinford CE Primary School we recognise spirituality as fundamental to human flourishing. In line with the Church of England's Vision for Education, we aim to provide the space, language, and opportunities for all members of our school community—children and adults—to grow spiritually.

Collective worship plays a key role in nurturing spirituality by:

- Creating time and space for stillness, reflection, prayer and wonder.
- Providing opportunities to experience awe and beauty through story, music, silence, symbol, and ritual.
- Exploring big questions about meaning, purpose, belonging, justice, and God.
- Encouraging responses to experiences of joy, sorrow, mystery, and hope.

- Developing an awareness of the transcendent—something greater than ourselves.
- Encouraging children and adults to reflect on their own beliefs, values, and inner lives.

Our Approach

- Intentional design: Worship is carefully planned to offer depth, engagement and opportunities to encounter the divine.
- Inclusive invitation: Worship invites all children to engage spiritually, regardless of faith background, in a way that respects their own identity and worldview.
- Varied expression: Pupils can respond to worship through silence, prayer, artwork, journaling, conversation or action.
- Safe space: We create a safe and respectful environment where children can wonder, question and explore meaning without fear of judgement.

Organisation & Delivery

Collective worship will take place daily for all pupils. We will have different formats (whole school, key stage, class worship). Collective Worship is timetabled every afternoon at 2.55pm

The planning of themes for Collective Worship is always based around our school vision and our values We have 7 core values which can be a focus or we work with staff and children to plan worship around about which value we think is need for our school community at that time. Further priority is given to traditions based on the cycle of the Christian calendar and we also celebrate traditions form other religions. Bible stories from the Old and New Testaments are explicitly linked to these traditions and values. Worship is always planned in advance with school and church working together. The plan will usually run for a half term.

Daily worship at Oldswinford Church of England Primary School is led by a broad representation of the school and church community, namely:

- the Head Teacher, Deputy Head Teacher, members of the SLT and teaching staff;
- individual pupils, groups of pupils, the Worship Group, a whole class;
- a member of the clergy from St. Mary's Church, 'Open The Book' team;
- visitors

Each act of worship will be Anglican in nature and will normally include (some of):

- Greeting and gathering

We raise the cross to show we're in the presence of the Holy Spirit;
We open the Bible to welcome God's word;
We light the candle to remind us that Jesus is the light.

- A lesson: something to learn and reflect on. This could include a Bible reading, tale, story, psalm, quote, activity.
- Time for reflection including a prayer
- Leaving with a mission – How is what we have learnt today going to impact on our lives? What will we take with us?
- Sending out

We worship God today, we worship God tomorrow, we worship God always

Children and adults are expected to enter the hall in thoughtful silence to help them to focus and appreciate the welcome that has been arranged for them, be it recorded music, sounds of nature, live music played by either staff or pupils or silence. In 2025 we wrote a worship charter following feedback from all classes and our new behaviour policy and school rules. (See appendix 1)

A range and variety of materials are used to motivate and engage the collective, to illustrate themes and to encourage deeper thinking and reflection. These include: video clips, slideshows, songs, dance, stories, drama, artwork and focal points.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The Head Teacher and Governing Body are responsible for monitoring and evaluating the impact of worship. This is done through:

- staff, parent and pupil responses
- regular observations of and participation in Collective Worship;
- focussed discussions in staff meetings and governors' meetings
- Children are encouraged to self-assess and evaluate their spiritual development.

The evaluation of Collective Worship leads us to review and improve our practice, to respond to and meet the changing needs of our school community and to ensure that statutory requirements are met to the highest possible standards.

Policy Review and Evaluation

The policy will be reviewed every three years by all teaching staff and quality assured by the Head teacher, SLT and Governors.

Appendices will be added and updated, as appropriate, to reflect statutory changes and best current practice.

Appendix 1

In worship we will be...

READY to connect with God and each other as we gather together as our Oldswinford family.

RESPECTFUL and quiet when we arrive and leave. We will listen and follow instructions.

SAFE and make sure we are being kind to those around us.