



St Stephen's
CE Primary School

Collective Worship Policy

Date: September 2025
Date of Review: September 2027

I have come that they may have life and have it to the full. John 10:10

My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. John 13:34



“Learning, loving and growing; together as God’s children”

Introduction

We are proud to be a nurturing, inclusive, diverse church school at the centre of our community, where all children and staff are encouraged to continue ‘learning, loving and growing; together as God’s children’.

Our Vision

Our vision is about **celebrating the uniqueness of every individual, inspiring a life long love of learning and experiencing life in all its fullness**. It is rooted in John 13:34:

“I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another.”

Our school will be a place where:

- everyone feels safe, welcome and valued.
- everyone feels excitement, joy and challenge through developing their God-given gifts to achieve.
- everyone flourishes and excels, grows in character, faith and wisdom and develops hope and aspiration.
- everyone is equipped to move on in their journey with confidence, resilience and motivation.
- In partnership with others we seek to serve and make a valuable contribution to God’s world.

Our Core Christian Values

Thankfulness - Love - Respect - Forgiveness - Kindness - Friendship

Our Trust Values

Inclusion - Compassion - Aspiration - Resilience - Excellence

Aims and Objectives of Collective Worship

St Stephen’s aims to provide a challenging, yet nurturing, environment based on our vision, mission and core Christian Values. It is our responsibility as a Church of England school to provide the children with the building blocks of the Christian faith through the means of worship, prayer and familiarity with Scripture. Our children are challenged to think for themselves about the big questions that face the world today, within an environment which is accepting of other faiths and cultures.

All the children in our care are children of God and are created in His likeness. God is love and he wants the best for His children. He wants us to have life in all its fullness, and central to the Christian faith is the truth that he sent His Son to die for us so that we might be forgiven and by His grace receive eternal life, and to build a relationship with Him of love and trust. He never said that things would be easy, but that He is with

us by His Spirit in whatever situations we find ourselves. As we grow in that relationship and allow His Spirit to work in our lives, we see the outworking of that in all we do, think and say. Our core Christian values are integral to our daily lives.

We nurture and celebrate each person within our school family; individuals are respected and valued equally without regard to ability, gender, faith, heritage or race.

Through providing an exciting, engaging and thought provoking collective worship curriculum we encourage children to explore, ask questions, reflect and grow as unique individuals. We want our pupils to leave St. Stephen's and make a valuable contribution to the world in which they live.

The Format

An act of Collective Worship takes place every day and is an important part of school life, making space for pupils and staff to come together and share in worship through learning, music, reflection and prayer. Our worship is **inclusive** and gives all of the school community the chance to be part of the experience, while respecting the integrity of family and cultural backgrounds.

The weekly pattern of collective worship looks like this:

Monday	Whole school Values worship - led by Mrs Denney. This follows the pattern of our Christian Values: Autumn 1 - Respect and Excellence Autumn 2 - Friendship and Compassion Spring 1 - Love and Inclusion Spring 2 - Forgiveness and Resilience Summer 1 - Kindness Summer 2 - Thankfulness and Aspiration
Tuesday	Whole School Picture News Worship - led by Mrs Garside and The Picture News Pioneers (We are Picture News partner school https://picture-news.co.uk/)
Wednesday	Whole School Singing Worship - led by Mrs Potter or Class Worship using Picture News theme - led by Classteachers and Picture News Pioneers 'What does the Bible say?'
Thursday	Wellbeing Worship - led by Mrs Garside and the Wellbeing Warriors
Friday	Celebration Worship - led by Mrs Denney. Stars of the week, character awards, attendance winners, DOJO winners, birthdays, home achievements
Our EYFS follow their own collective worship overview and join us each Friday for celebration worship.	

The Role of the wider school community

Every member of the teaching staff and occasional visitors will be involved in leading acts of worship at some point in the school year. Children will have opportunities to help lead collective worship in their classes daily during prayer time and weekly during the staff/pupil led collective worship. There is an opportunity for all classes to plan, lead and deliver a whole class assembly each term of which parents are invited. We also celebrate Harvest, Remembrance, Christmas and Easter.

Local clergy visit our school regularly and lead classroom or whole school worship. Teachers and the Headteacher lead Collective Worship during the week and there is a Celebration worship each Friday to celebrate pupil's achievements.

Withdrawal

Our assemblies will be conducted in a manner as sensitive and inclusive as to ensure that all children feel comfortable to attend the assembly.

Inclusive: Worship is collective in that it involves meeting, exploring, questioning, and responding to others and, for some, to God. In the Church school pupils, their families and other adults can expect to encounter worship that is inclusive of, and fully accessible to, all. Many pupils and staff in our schools will come from homes of different faith backgrounds as well as of no faith background. Moreover, many pupils will naturally be at different stages of their spiritual journey during their time in school. Pupils should be given the opportunity to think and ask questions. There should be space to consent, and dissent: to participate and to stand back; and to consider. It is an expectation that care will be taken to ensure that the language used by those facilitating worship avoids assuming faith in all those participating, listening and watching. Collective worship should not be 'done to' but will involve meaningful contributions from the whole school community, including pupils. It is recognised that pupils will bring their own experience to worship. Inclusion requires pupil involvement in planning, leading and the evaluation of worship. Although part of a national legislative framework, collective worship in the Church school grows out of the local context and out of pupils' experience, including their cultural backgrounds.

Invitational: Parents, pupils and adults can expect to encounter worship that is consistently invitational. There should be no compulsion to 'do anything'. Rather, worship should provide the opportunity to engage whilst allowing the freedom of those of different faiths and those who profess no religious faith to be present and to engage with integrity. The metaphor of 'warm fires and open doors' captures this idea. The warmth of the fire derives from the clarity and authenticity of the Christian message at its heart.

There is no value to an encounter with a watered down, lowest common denominator version of faith. Importantly the door is open, all are welcome to come in and sit as near or as far away from the fire as they feel comfortable. Pupils and adults should always only be invited to pray if they wish to do so and should be invited to pray in their own way. Prayer should always be accompanied by the option to reflect.

Inspiring: Pupils and adults can expect the worship they encounter in a Church school to be inspirational. Worship should be formational and transformational: it should enable pupils and adults to ask big

questions about who we are and why we do what we do. It should motivate pupils and adults into action, into thinking differently, and into reflecting on their and the wider community's behaviour and actions. As a result of inspirational collective worship, they should be inspired to become courageous advocates of causes. It should encourage them to think searchingly about their faith, beliefs and/or philosophical convictions.

Signed: Mrs S J Denney Updated: September 2025 Next review: September 2027