



Collective Worship Policy

This policy was reviewed in March 2024

This policy was approved by the Governing Body on 6th March 2025

This policy will be reviewed in March 2026

(unless any changes are necessary prior to this date)

BELONGING | BELIEVING | ACHIEVING

“You are the light of the world.”

Matthew 5:14

AIMS

Collective Worship at St Matthew's plays a central role in supporting and strengthening our school Christian vision, values and ethos.

Our school vision is based on the verse in Matthew's Gospel “You are the light of the world”. Through our vision, children and adults of all religious faiths and those of no religious faith are part of inclusive, inspirational and inspiring acts of Collective Worship.

The care, guidance and support we provide for our children, our high expectations and the excellent educational and inclusive opportunities supports our belief that every child matters.

Collective Worship at St Matthew's:

- a) Offers the opportunity, without compulsion, to all pupils and adults to grow spiritually through experiences of prayer, stillness, worship and reflection.
- b) Enables all pupils and adults to appreciate that Christians worship in different ways, for example using music, silence, story, prayer, reflection, the varied liturgical and other traditions of Anglican/Methodist worship, festivals and, where appropriate, the Eucharist.
- c) Helps pupils and adults to appreciate the relevance of faith in today's world, to encounter the teachings of Jesus and the Bible and to develop their understanding of the Christian belief in the trinitarian nature of God and its language
- d) Enables pupils as well as adults to engage in the planning, leading and evaluation of collective worship in ways that lead to improving practice. Leaders of worship, including clergy, have access to regular training

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- e) Encourages local church community partnerships to support the school effectively in developing its provision for collective worship.

As a Church School, Collective Worship is a vitally important part of the school day. Almost all acts of Collective Worship take place at the end of the school day to bring the school community together as we prepare to leave school for the day. Mass for pupils in KS2 takes place on a Wednesday morning, the middle of the school week, and this is led by members of the clergy from St Matthew's Church as well as other visiting clergy.

PLANNING

Collective Worship plans are formulated by the Acting Headteacher and clergy, and are discussed with pupils as part of the monitoring and evaluation schedule. Teachers follow the whole school themes for each term when planning their acts of Collective Worship. A suggested plan for Collective Worship can be found in appendix I.

The weekly themes reflect the liturgical calendar, the Trinitarian nature of God, Biblical texts the school Christian vision and Christian values:

“You are the light of the world” Matthew 5:14

Belonging | Believing | Achieving

Our vision at St Matthew's through the light of Christ, is to create a place of **Belonging**, a place of **Believing**, and a place of **Achieving** for all our children.

Our vision at St Matthew's through the light of Christ, is to create a place of **Belonging**, a place of **Believing**, and a place of **Achieving** for all our children. These three core values give the foundation for our community, and are informed by our Christian understanding of **koinonia**, **faith** and **wisdom**. Our school Christian values align closely with our church's vision – everyone is welcome and an understanding of community in the heart of the city. These shared values have been lived and expressed by our church and school since we were established in the mid nineteenth century.

BELONGING – koinonia - the light of belonging in our community

We are a warm, welcoming and inclusive school where children and adults feel a strong sense of belonging. Everyone is welcome, everyone belongs.

BELIEVING – faith - the light of faith

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We celebrate the whole of our school community. Celebrating the contributions of children and families of all religious faiths and those of none. We believe in a culture of appreciation, respect and understanding.

ACHIEVING – wisdom - the light of wisdom in our achievements

We are ambitious for every single child to grow in wisdom – academically, socially, emotionally and spiritually. We value achievement across the curriculum and encourage children's individual talents and strengths.

Further information can be found here: <https://www.ldbs.co.uk/re-worship/collective-worship/>.

All Collective Worship begins with the Music of the Week (linked to the weekly theme) the lighting of a candle as a visual representation of Christ as the light of the world. Teaching staff are expected to attend and participate in all acts of Collective Worship.

Values and thoughts shared in Collective Worship permeate throughout daily life at school and are captured in school displays.

Collective Worship usually takes place in school, but we also visit St Matthew's Church (and other churches/schools) throughout the year. There are many occasions for parents to join us in Collective Worship throughout the school year. Our school vision is a strength in our Collective Worship - parents of different religious faiths and those of no religious faith are all welcome. Everyone is included, everyone belongs.

Prayer

Pupils contribute to the leading of and writing of prayers in acts of worship each term; these are recorded in class prayer books. Our whole school prayer is based on our school vision and was written with contributions from the whole school community. Our prayer can be said at any time of day, but is always used at the end of Celebration Worship with parents on a Friday afternoon:

Dear Lord,
You are the light of the world;
Shine on us and help us each day to be your light
in our homes, our school and our community:
Give us your peace, so that everyone in our school will know
that they are loved, and that they **belong** here.

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May we use the gifts you have given us,
to **believe** in ourselves and everyone around us,
and give us your help,
that we may learn and **achieve** all that is possible.
Amen.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Monitoring the impact of Collective Worship includes all members of the school community. Staff are invited to share feedback using the template on the shared drive and pupils contribute their thoughts and feelings and impact of Collective Worship using the school display in the lobby. School Council also monitor the quality and impact of Collective Worship in their meetings.

The Acting Headteacher and clergy then use this feedback as part of their evaluation process to plan future acts of Collective Worship to support our school vision.

INCLUSION

Adaptations can be made to acts of Collective Worship to ensure everyone is involved and included. Adaptations may include specific visual supports for non-verbal pupils, or art/craft activities to support the weekly theme.

Withdrawal

Collective Worship is a central part of school life at St Matthew's and we encourage everyone to be involved. The strength of our diverse and inclusive school community ensures that everyone is included - those of all faiths and those of none.

For parents who do not wish for their child to be involved in Collective Worship, we ask that they put their concerns in writing to the Acting Headteacher. The letter should cover:

- the elements of Collective Worship the parents object to
- if they would allow the child to be present in Collective Worship, but not take part
- what the child should be doing if they can't be present in Collective Worship

APPENDIX I

A suggested format to help members of staff plan acts of Collective Worship:

Collective Worship			
Christian Value Focus & Collective Worship Theme:			
Music of the Week: (to be played at the beginning and end of Collective Worship)		Biblical text:	

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<p>Message: Whatistheonekeymessage youwantthechildrenand adultstotakeawaywiththem?</p>	
<p>How is the worship inclusive, invitational and inspiring?</p>	
<p>How today's worship is an expression of the school vision: Howdoesitlinkintoanother actofCollectiveWorshipthis week?</p>	
<p>Gathering: Tobringpeopleintothe presenceofGod,intoasacred space,enablingalltofocuson a timeofworship. Howwillchildrenandstaffsit?</p>	
<p>Engagement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Themeintroduced ● Keyquestionexplored ● Biblicaltextintroducedand explored ● Pupilengagement, response,reflection ● Howwillthechildrenbe abletousetheessagein theireverydaylife? 	
<p>Prayer: Childrendonotneedtoclose theireyesandputtheirhands together.</p>	
<p>Resources (including SEN support):</p>	