



## St John's C.E. Primary School- Collective Worship Policy

This policy is intended to ensure consistency across the school in terms of Collective Worship. It is intended to be read in conjunction with guidance produced by the Church of England on Collective Worship (latest published in 2021 [Latest Collective Worship guidance](#)).

**The Church of England states that Collective Worship in a Church of England school will do the following:**

- Explore the school's vision and how that underpins shared values and virtues. In doing so, it will reflect on moral values such as compassion, gratitude, justice, humility, forgiveness and reconciliation; and develop virtues such as resilience, determination and creativity that develop character and contribute to academic progress (see Appendix 1).
- 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 Anglican worship, festivals and, where appropriate, the Eucharist.
- Enable pupils to develop skills through engaging in the planning, leading and evaluation of collective worship in ways that lead to improving practice.

**Agreed Procedure:**

- Acts of Worship at St John's CE Primary School must be of a broadly Christian character, reflecting the broad traditions of Christian belief, and have regard for the age, aptitude and family background of pupils
- Formal Collective Worship – in our gathered whole school settings and in classrooms with our school prayer, Bible stories and worship hymns and songs. Children are involved in worship and increasingly we want to develop their potential to lead our collective worship in whole school and class settings.

**Monday-** Whole School worship in the Hall with Y1 to Y6 led by Tracey Cansdale, Headteacher and Rev Adele from our link church, St Thomas & St John. Followed by Wiggle Worship for Nursery and EYFS. We follow a Bible story which reinforces a value. See Appendix 1 for a sample half term of planning.

**Tuesday-** Worship in classes which embeds the Monday Bible story and gives an opportunity for more response and reflection. This is written by the headteacher so that it flows from the Monday theme but delivered by the class teacher. It is often differentiated for EYFS, KS1 and KS2.

**Wednesday-** Singing worship -music can evoke deep emotional responses and provide a space for reflection, stillness, and spiritual connection. It supports children in exploring their own spirituality and understanding of God. Singing worship times are invitational—everyone is welcome to join in, regardless of faith background. This reflects the Church of England’s emphasis on inclusive worship that respects diversity while maintaining a Christian ethos.

**Thursday-** Picture News in our classes which fosters spiritual reflection, moral reasoning, and empathy by engaging pupils with real-world issues and encouraging them to respond thoughtfully. Picture News aligns with the Church of England’s vision of “life in all its fullness” (John 10:10) by helping children explore real-world issues through a Christian lens. It supports the four key elements of the Church’s vision: wisdom, hope, community, and dignity.

**Friday-** Whole school celebration worship in the Hall focusing on how children have demonstrated the school’s values in their learning and behaviour-led by the headteacher with parents invited to attend, giving the opportunity of a wider collective worship event.

- Worship themes are chosen to reflect the school’s Christian Values, help children to understand the ‘Big Story of the Bible’, special events in the life of the school and community, Christian festivals together with festivals and values from other religions. Topical events e.g. natural disasters in the news, charity appeals, outside guests, etc. are included as appropriate.
- School has a prayer which is often used at the opening or closing of worship time:

**This is our school,  
Let it be full of love,  
Let us care for our world and everything around us.  
Help us to do what is right,  
Help us to do our very best in our work and play.  
Thank you God for our school and friends.  
Amen**

- Sung worship is an important part of reflection and response and school have a repertoire of worship songs which the children know, enjoy and which build up our common life. Pupils and staff are invited to take part in prayers. The following phrases are used “we are going to say a prayer, if you want to join in you can say ‘Amen’ at the end or you can be quiet and use the time to reflect.”
- Silence may be used to reflect on the issue explored rather than voicing a prayer in words
- Pupils will be encouraged to share their thoughts, feelings and ideas
- Pupils will be encouraged to participate in an active way by joining with singing and prayers, making music, reading chosen passages or their own prayers and dramatising chosen stories
- Music is used and part of a worship time may involve listening to a piece of music which has inspired others. This serves to set the mood for spiritual development when children may reflect on their own beliefs and those of others.
- Parents retain the right to withdraw their children from collective worship
- Teachers and headteachers retain their right not to participate in acts of worship but we actively encourage all to attend
- Opportunities to take part in festivals and church special days are encouraged
- Children are encouraged to reflect on their spiritual development regularly and reflect on the impact of collective worship

**Is this working?**

- Is our collective worship inclusive, inspiring and invitational?
- Do visitors to our worship time feel the sense of our school as a caring community?
- Do the children value our times of collective worship?
- Are the children proud to stand up and celebrate in worship time?
- Do the children actively involve themselves at worship time?

## Appendix 1: A Sample Half Term of Worship Themes

*As a church school St John's aims to develop its religious character taking into account the principles of the Church of England and to promote Christian values through the experience we offer to all our pupils. Our Christian values run through everything we do and they guide us in our decision making and our future plans. They support us in delivering our vision. Our Christian values are love, courage and perseverance. Our Christian values, include the fundamental British Values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths & beliefs.*

### Collective Worship Themes for Autumn Term 2025

**Mondays – Church Worship with Rev Adele for Y1-Y6 & Wiggle Worship for EYFS (TC/Rev A), Tuesdays – Class Worship, Wednesday – Singing Assembly with Shades racial justice group and School Council meeting fortnightly (TC/MM alternating), Thursday – Picture News Worship time and Friday – Celebration Worship (all teachers in)**

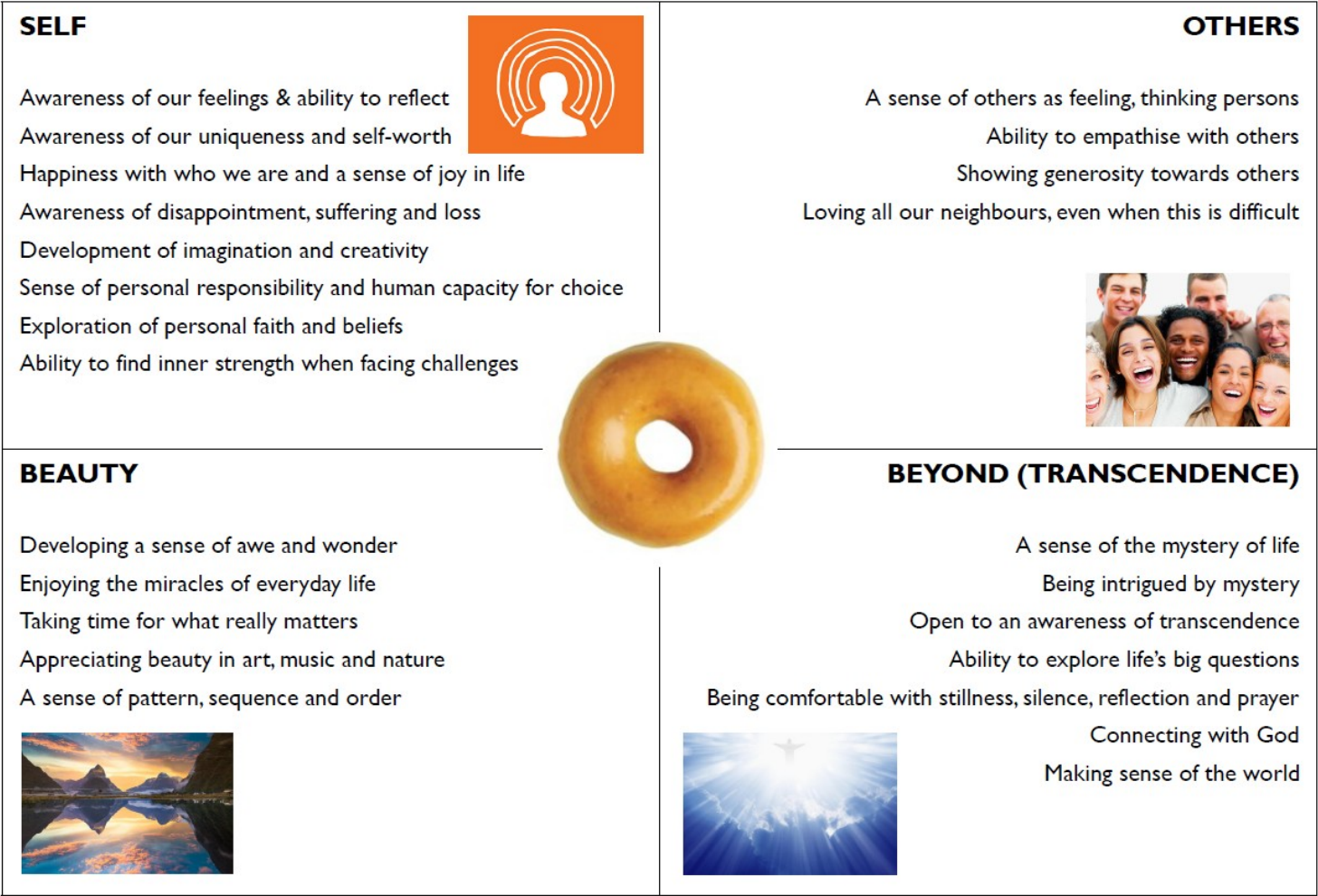
Week	Hymns & Songs	Intro & Exit Music	Values, Themes & Bible Stories to cover	Link to Powerpoints created
1	He's got the whole world in His hands Together	I am the Day sung by Libera (Angel Voices)	Tu: Whole school worship welcome back – intro to our verse from Isaiah about soaring like eagles  Soaring like eagles      Isaiah 40:31 <b>Love, Courage Perseverance</b>	<a href="#">Tuesday 2nd September - welcome back worship.pptx</a>  <a href="#">Singing Assembly Week 1.pptx</a>
2	Together Living & Learning	The Humming Chorus from Pucini	M – looking at The Good Samaritan where we ended the 24-25 academic year – what does this parable mean for our school? T – what does this parable mean for our classes. Helping others, even if they're different from us. Who is your neighbour? How can we show kindness to someone we don't know well?  The Good Samaritan      Luke 10:25–37 <b>Love</b>	<a href="#">Week 2 Mon 8th and Tues 9th September - Good Samaritan.pptx</a>
3	Together Harvest Samba	Abide with Me played by Grimethorpe Colliery Band	M – looking at the story of David and Goliath – at the start of a new school year when we can feel that there are some big tasks ahead – what can we learn? T – David was young and overlooked yet he still took responsibility – think about tasks and roles we have in our classes/school. Face big challenges with faith. What makes you feel brave? How can we trust God when we're scared?	<a href="#">Week 3 Mon 15th and Tues 16th September - David &amp; Goliath.pptx</a>

Week	Hymns & Songs	Intro & Exit Music	Values, Themes & Bible Stories to cover			Link to Powerpoints created
			David and Goliath	1 Samuel 17	<b>Courage</b>	
4	Praise to the One Harvest Samba	Lindisfarne by Iona	<p>M – when things seem to be out of our control how can we trust God and carry on doing what he has asked – Noah’s Ark part 1</p> <p>T – sometimes we have to wait and that can be hard – learning patience using the people on board the ark as an example – Noah’s Ark part 2 Stay faithful even when it’s hard. What helps you keep going when things are tough?</p> <p>Why is it important to trust God’s plan?</p>			<a href="#">Week 4 Mon 22nd and Tues 23rd September The Story of Noah's Ark.pptx</a>
			Noah’s Ark	Genesis 6–9	<b>Perseverance</b>	
5	Beautiful World Praise to the One	One Love by Bob Marley	<p>M – Friends help us grow closer to God? Class worship</p> <p>T - How do we encourage one another and bring each other to Jesus in school? How can we be good friends to others? What does it mean to carry someone’s burden? - Whole school worship</p> <p>M- Life Off session 2 with parents of Reception children invited to join in</p> <p>Th – Shades team in to do Faith and Justice tour on standing firm in power and pride</p>			<a href="#">Week 5 Mon 29th and Tues 30th September - love and friendship.pptx</a>  <a href="#">Lift Off Session 2 to share with parents Mon 29th September.pptx</a>
			Jesus Heals a Paralysed Man	Mark 2:1–12	<b>Love</b>	
6	Beautiful World Harvest Samba Count your blessings	My Beautiful Home Khayalilhle Khaya Lami sung by Ladysmith Black Mambazo	<p>M – Esther part 1 – standing up for what is right when those around us and in charge are making the wrong decisions</p> <p>T – Esther part 2 – God is in control even of kings and rulers. When have you had to be brave? How can we speak up for others?</p>			<a href="#">Week 6 Mon 6th and Tues 7th October - Esther.pptx</a>
			Esther’s Brave Choice	<b>Courage</b>	Stand up for what’s right.	
7	Praise to the	VOCES8 & Jack	M- Harvest Celebrations – thankfulness for all we have – whole school in for Monday worship together			<a href="#">Week 7 Mon 13th and</a>

Week	Hymns & Songs	Intro & Exit Music	Values, Themes & Bible Stories to cover	Link to Powerpoints created
	One Beautiful One	Liebeck: The Lark Ascending - Ralph Vaughan Williams (arr. Paul Drayton)	with a collection for the Food Bank T – Harvest activities	<a href="#">Tues 14th October - bread of life.pptx</a>  <a href="#">Week 7 Harvest.pptx</a>
8	Together Song of Blessing	Pictures at an Exhibition by Mussorgsky	M – parable of The Lost Sheep and God’s never ending love T – how can we show that persevering love to others? Have you ever felt lost or left out? How can we help others feel included?  <div style="border: 1px solid #ccc; padding: 5px; display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> <span>The Lost Sheep (Luke 15:1–7)</span> <span><b>Love</b></span> <span>God never gives up on us.</span> </div>	<a href="#">Week 8 Mon 20th and Tues 21st - The Lost Sheep.pptx</a>

**Appendix 2: Our Shared Understanding of Spirituality which underpins our life of Collective Worship**

We plan opportunities for spiritual development in both curriculum time and in collective worship. This is our agreed definition of spirituality:



Accepted by Local Academy Committee in November 2025

Next review due: November 2027