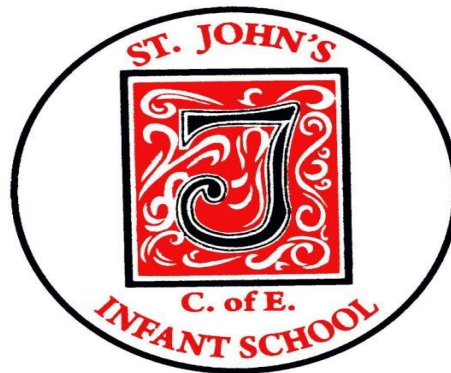


# COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

St John's Church of England Primary  
School



<b>Date Approved</b>	<b>Sep 2025</b>
<b>Review date</b>	<b>Sep 2026</b>

*From the smallest of seeds fed with faith and love our St John's family will flourish and grow*

All of our policies are written with the aim of improving our school and of realising our Christian vision:



**From the smallest of seeds fed with faith and**

**love our St John's family will flourish and grow.**

Our vision underpins every document, procedure and decision made within our setting. We are committed to enabling all members of our small community to **flourish and grow** through the values of faith and love and to ensuring that they go on equipped for 21<sup>st</sup> century living and to have a positive impact on the world.

*Based on the teachings of Matthew 13:31*

### ***Collective Worship Policy***

This policy should be read in conjunction with the school's Religion and World Views and Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural policies

### ***Our rationale for collective Worship in school***

Collective Worship provides opportunities for the whole school family to meet and grow spiritually together.

Collective Worship underpins the school's Christian vision and values.

Collective Worship takes place daily and is attended by all children and class-based staff, unless their parents have requested, they be withdrawn.

### ***Aims for Collective Worship***

Collective Worship at St John's School follows the plans set out by Rochester Diocese. It aims to provide pupils with opportunities to do the following:

- Encounter the teachings of Jesus and the Bible
- Develop an understanding of the Christian belief in the Trinitarian nature of God
- Learn that Christians worship in different ways
- Participate in the planning, leading and evaluating of worship
- Practice prayer, stillness, worship and reflection

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- Consider disadvantage, injustice and exploitation on a local, national and global level
- Appreciate the relevance of faith in today's world
- Consider how religious beliefs affect their own lives and their own behaviours
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### ***Collective Worship and the Anglican Tradition***

At St John's school, the following Anglican traditions are adhered to during CW:

- The Bible is referred to and used as a source of inspiration and learning
- Christian symbols are used
- A candle is lit to signify the start and end of our time together
- Trinitarian language is used
- Choral responses and prayers are integral
- Major Christian festivals are observed

### ***The structure of Collective Worship***

At St John's School, the following stages are observed in each 15-minute session where we gather as a family:

- Gather stage – music is played as the family enter the hall. A worship table is used as a focal point. The school vision is recited as a choral response. The candle is lit, and the Trinitarian nature of God is referred to chorally.
- Engage stage – a Christian concept is explored. This can be done in a variety of ways e.g – stories, poetry, drama, film, art, PowerPoint, props or through use of guest speakers.
- Respond stage – pupils are provided with opportunities to reflect and respond to what they have just heard/ seen. This can be done in a variety of ways - through questions, partner talk and finally in the participation of a prayer.
- Send stage – pupils are provided with the opportunity to consider how what they have just seen / heard affects their own lives and behaviours. They are given

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a moment of stillness to devise a way to embed the concept they have just explored into their own lives today. They whisper the way they can embed this (their golden promise) into their cupped hands and send this with a choral response up to God. The candle is extinguished, and music is played as the family exit the hall.

- A hymn can be scheduled to take place during CW, and this can take place at any stage.
- Mondays CW begins with OWs and WOWs, Tuesdays with a hymn, Wednesdays is in-class, Thursdays is Windows, Mirrors and Doors based and Fridays is our celebratory Vision in Action day.

### **The Spiritual Development of pupils**

At St John's School, Collective Worship provides particular opportunities for contributing to the spiritual development of pupils by:

- Giving time for stillness and reflection
- Exploring inner thoughts and feelings
- Creating an atmosphere conducive to a sense of peace and tranquillity
- Fostering an atmosphere of mutual respect
- Providing opportunities to develop the imagination
- Using a range of activities such as singing, dancing, drama, prayer
- Providing a special time separate from ordinary school activities

### **Organisation of Collective Worship**

Collective worship is delivered by teachers on a rota basis.

The Collective Worship manager updates the rota each term.

Once a term we hold a school vision and values day so collective worship on this day does not follow the Diocesan plans.

### **Resources for Collective Worship**

All collective worship resources such as planning, hymns and visual aids for use on the whiteboard are stored electronically on the school's sharepoint system.

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The candle remains on the worship table in the school hall. Matches are kept in the school office and must be returned there by an adult after use.

### ***The legal requirements for Collective Worship***

The School Standards and Framework Act 1998 (Section 70 and Schedule 20) requires that:

There must be a daily act of collective worship for all pupils (apart from those whose parents exercise the right to withdrawal).

All acts of Collective Worship in Church schools must be Christian in character.

For Collective Worship, pupils can be grouped in various ways: as a whole school, according to age, or in groups (or a combination of groups) which the school uses at other times. Pupils cannot be put into special groups just for Collective Worship.

Acts of worship must be appropriate for the pupils in that they should take account of the pupils' age, aptitude and family backgrounds.

The daily act of Collective Worship will normally take place on the school premises but can take place elsewhere (e.g: the local Parish Church\*).

Responsibility for the arrangement of Collective Worship rests with the Governors in consultation with the headteacher. The headteacher has a responsibility to ensure that all arrangements for Collective Worship are secured.

### ***Withdrawal from Collective Worship***

Parents have the right to withdraw their child wholly or partly from CW . The school expects that this request is formalised in writing.

The school continues to be responsible for the supervision of any child withdrawn. The school is not expected to provide

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activities for withdrawn children to complete during worship time.

***Statement of equality***

This policy serves to ensure that all members of the St John's family, whatever their background, disability, ethnicity, gender, learning difficulty, nationality, religion or sexual orientation are welcomed, dealt with fairly and are treated with dignity and respect.

***Date: September 2025***

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