# Collective Worship Policy




| Policy information | Details |
|---|---|
| **Policy owner** | Headteacher / Spirituality and RE leadership |
| **Approval** | Governing Body — Autumn 2026 |
| **Date written** | Autumn 2026 |
| **Next review** | Autumn 2027 or earlier following updated guidance |
| **Linked policies** | Spirituality, RE, Curriculum, SEND, Equality, Behaviour, Safeguarding, RSHE and Mental Health/Wellbeing |

# Billinge St Aidan's Church of England Primary School
# Collective Worship Policy

## Our Christian vision

"Let your light shine" (Matthew 5:16) is at the heart of collective worship at Billinge St Aidan's Church of England Primary School. In this passage, Jesus calls his followers to let their light shine through what they do. We see light as a sign of the God-given worth, gifts and potential of every person. Through worship, we help children and adults recognise those gifts and use them in ways that help others flourish.

Collective worship gives our school community a daily opportunity to encounter the Christian faith, reflect together and put our Gospel Values into practice. Our partnership with St Aidan's Church and the Diocese of Liverpool supports this work.

## Aims of collective worship

- Give pupils opportunities to encounter the teachings and example of Jesus through Scripture, prayer, song and Anglican traditions.
- Provide space for wonder, gratitude, stillness, reflection and questions about God, ourselves and the world.
- Help pupils see how Hope, Love, Friendship, Forgiveness, Truth and Perseverance can inform their choices and relationships.
- Give pupils meaningful opportunities to plan, lead and evaluate worship and to respond through service and courageous advocacy.

## Inclusive invitational and inspiring worship

**Inclusive** We welcome children and adults of all faiths and beliefs, including those with no religious faith. Leaders plan for access from the outset, including for pupils with SEND. They use familiar routines, accessible language, visual cues and, where helpful, symbols or AAC. Children can contribute by listening, signing, selecting a symbol or taking a supported role. Shorter, familiar routines may help younger children take part.

**Invitational** We invite pupils and adults to pray, sing or use shared responses. Everyone may listen or reflect quietly. Leaders make that choice clear, for example, "If you would like to make this prayer your own, you can say Amen. You are welcome to listen or reflect quietly." Adults model respectful participation.

**Inspiring** Leaders connect Bible stories and Christian teaching with questions pupils recognise in their own lives. Worship offers time to think and a way for pupils to respond through their choices and actions.

## Daily entitlement and right of withdrawal

We provide an act of collective worship each school day, as a whole school, in classes or in groups. The governing board makes arrangements in consultation with the Headteacher under the School Standards and Framework Act 1998. Worship follows any applicable provision in the school's trust deed and otherwise accords with Church of England tenets and practice. Collective worship is distinct from the taught Religious Education curriculum.

Parents and carers may withdraw their child from all or part of collective worship. Parents and carers can contact the Headteacher through the school office. The school will act on the request without requiring a reason and confirm the scope and supervision

arrangements with the family. Routine interventions and timetable changes will be organised so pupils retain access to their daily act of worship.

## Our weekly pattern

| Day | Collective worship |
|---|---|
| Monday | Class worship using Picture News to explore a current issue through reflection, a Christian perspective and an invitation to pray or respond |
| Tuesday | Whole-school worship in the hall |
| Wednesday | Whole-school worship through song in the hall |
| Thursday | Whole-school worship in the hall |
| Friday | Whole-school SHINE celebration in the hall, with worship and reflection linked to our Christian vision and Gospel Values |

Where the usual timetable changes, the person responsible for the day arranges worship in another suitable format. On Picture News and SHINE days, leaders plan a distinct act of worship within the gathering.

Through Friday SHINE Assembly we celebrate how pupils Succeed, Help Others, Inspire, Never Give Up and Engage. Prayer, thanksgiving or reflection helps pupils connect these achievements with how they can help others shine.

## Gospel Values and HeartSmart

Each half term has a Gospel Value focus. Our six school teams take their names from these values. Leaders link the focus to a Bible passage and to HeartSmart in Relationships and Health Education, so that pupils can make connections between worship and daily life.

| Half term | Gospel Value | HeartSmart focus |
|---|---|---|
| Autumn 1 | Hope | Get HeartSmart |
| Autumn 2 | Love | Don't Forget to Let Love In |
| Spring 1 | Friendship | Too Much Selfie Isn't Healthy |
| Spring 2 | Forgiveness | Don't Hold On to What's Wrong |
| Summer 1 | Truth | Fake Is a Mistake |
| Summer 2 | Perseverance | No Way Through Isn't True |

## Planning and leading worship

Leaders plan worship around a clear focus, drawing on the Christian vision, Gospel Value, the church year or a shared experience. A typical act of worship gathers the community, engages pupils with a Bible passage or Christian theme, invites prayer or reflection, and sends pupils out with a question or action to carry into the day.

Pupils may read Scripture, lead prayers, sing, dramatise a story or help choose a question for reflection. Leaders use music, images, objects and short films where these help pupils explore the theme. Where relevant, leaders make respectful connections with other faiths and worldviews.

Collective worship remains distinctively Christian, rooted in the teachings of Jesus and the traditions of the Church of England, while respecting and welcoming pupils and adults of all faiths and none.

Across the year, pupils encounter the Bible, the Lord's Prayer, the Grace, hymns, Anglican greetings and responses, and seasons such as Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter and Pentecost. Leaders explain how these express Christian beliefs, including belief in God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

## Spiritual development

At St Aidan's, spiritual development includes exploring meaning and purpose and becoming more aware of ourselves, other people, the world and, for people of faith, God. Pupils and adults can express these experiences through their own beliefs and language. Our shared spirituality prompts help people notice, question, reflect and respond.

| Lens | Opportunity in worship |
|---|---|
| WOW | Experience wonder and awe. |
| OW | Notice hurt or challenge and respond with empathy. |
| HOW | Ask big questions about God, life and the world. |
| NOW | Make space for stillness, prayer or reflection. |
| POW | Take action and make a difference. |
| VOW | Consider our values and make a commitment. |

Our Windows, Mirrors and Doors approach helps worship leaders plan for pupils and adults to look outwards, reflect on their own experiences and consider how they might respond. For example, worship on the Good Samaritan can invite pupils to notice who is overlooked, reflect on when they have needed help and choose a practical act of welcome.

## Pupil leadership and adult participation

Staff help pupils across the school move from supported roles to planning and leading parts of worship. Pupils can help select a reading or song, write an invitation to pray, pose a reflection question or suggest an action. Leaders ask pupils what helped them engage and use their feedback to shape future worship.

Adults are part of the worshipping community and have opportunities for stillness, reflection and prayer. Staff feedback helps leaders understand how worship supports adults' spiritual development and how staff can be supported in leading worship.

## Partnership with St Aidan's Church

We worship at St Aidan's Church on occasions such as Christmas, Easter and end-of-year services. Pupils contribute through readings, prayers and music. Experience Christmas and Experience Easter workshops deepen pupils' understanding of these festivals. The Beacon Service and STAs 4 All offer further opportunities for families to join in with church and school life.

The worship lead works with the parish to plan contributions and help pupils understand the meaning of Anglican worship. Leaders draw on the Diocese of Liverpool's Board of Education for guidance and training and review how both partnerships enrich pupils' and adults' experiences.

## Responsibilities and evaluation

**Governing board and foundation governors** Oversee the policy and daily provision. Foundation governors actively contribute to the monitoring and evaluation of collective worship through agreed observations, pupil voice and feedback from staff. They consider how worship reflects the school's Anglican foundation, assess its impact on pupils' and adults' spiritual flourishing, and report findings and recommendations to the governing board.

**Headteacher** Ensures daily provision, oversees withdrawal arrangements and supports staff development.

**Collective worship lead** Coordinates the program of collective worship, supports staff and pupil leaders, and works closely with St Aidan's Church and the Diocese of Liverpool. The worship lead ensures that visiting worship leaders are briefed on the school's Christian vision, Gospel Values, current worship themes, inclusive and invitational approaches, and relevant safeguarding expectations. Visiting leaders are supported in ensuring their contributions reflect the distinctive Christian character of the school.

**Staff and visiting leaders** Plan worship in line with the Christian vision, provide accessible ways to engage and share feedback that can improve future worship.

## Evaluating impact

Each term, the worship lead will review a sample of whole-school and class worship and gather feedback from pupils and adults. This will include younger pupils, pupils with SEND and people with different beliefs and experiences. Leaders will use existing plans, observations and examples of pupil responses to consider the following questions.

- Can pupils and adults explain in their own words what helps them reflect, ask questions or grow spiritually?
- Can they recognise how the Christian vision and Anglican tradition shape worship and give an example that matters to them?
- Who takes part, who leads and whose experience suggests that a barrier remains?
- Where has worship prompted a sustained change in relationships, an act of service or a response to an issue? How do pupils and adults describe that connection?

The worship lead will summarise what the evidence shows, identify an improvement and agree who will act on it and when. Governors will review findings through the school's existing reporting cycle and check whether agreed changes have improved the experience. Evidence will be drawn from what people choose to share. Personal faith and private reflection are respected.

## Concerns and related guidance

Parents and carers can raise concerns with the Headteacher. The school's published Complaints Policy sets out how to make a formal complaint. Read alongside the school's Spirituality Policy. External references are the SIAMS Framework (September 2026), the Church of England's Collective Worship in Church of England Schools guidance (November 2026) and the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 (sections 70 and 71 and Schedule 20).

# Billinge St Aidan's Church of England Primary School
# Collective Worship Policy

## Policy approval

| Status | Approved |
|---|---|
| Approval date | Autumn 26 |
| Review date | Autumn 27 |