

Wardley CE Primary School Collective Acts of Worship Policy



Name of Reviewer	Kari Walker
Date of Approval of Governing Body	November 2025
Signature of Chair	Alan Johns
Signature of Head	Kari Walker
Date Due for Review	November 2026

EQUALITY STATEMENT

As a school we welcome our duties under the Equality Act 2010. The general duties are to:

- eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation
- advance equality of opportunity
- foster good relations

We review all policies and procedures we operate to ensure there are no negative equality impacts based on the following protected characteristics: age, disability, ethnicity & race, gender (sex), gender identity & reassignment, pregnancy & maternity, sexual orientation religion & belief and non-belief as outlined in the Equality Act 2010. If you feel, on reading this policy that there may be a negative equality impact, please tell us about this. Please also let us know if you need to access this policy in a different format. You can do this by contacting the school office.

Our school vision

We are a Church of England school that values and recognises the uniqueness of each individual child and acknowledges their fundamental right to be educated to their full potential in a safe, secure and caring environment. Our ethos is built on Christian foundations and drives our belief that we can do all things.

Wardley CE Primary School is committed to continual improvement to ensure that what we do today is even better tomorrow. We provide a happy, secure and supportive learning environment where the children develop independence and work hard to make the most of their talents, and that 'We can do all things' within a deep and rich curriculum.

We can do all things through Christ who strengthens us. Phillipians 4:13

Practical ways in which we attempt to carry out our school vision

Through the Christian value of respect:

- Having strong ethics to underpin our decision making and actions.
- Creating an environment which promotes the Christian ethos of trust, respect and honesty to enable people to flourish.
- Promoting a sense of justice.
- Creating a strong moral purpose which underpins everything we do

Through the Christian value of friendship:

- Having an inclusive ethos to create a school in which everyone is welcome and everyone is equal.
- In celebrating diversity we value the strengths of all and embrace differences.
- Engaging stakeholders within and beyond the school.

Through the Christian value of trust:

- Having a strong sense of teamwork amongst all members of the school community.
- No matter how small, we value every contribution and support each other to reach our goals.
- In respecting each other, we strive to not let each other down.
- In feeling valued and empowered people have a desire to go the extra mile.

Through the Christian value of courage

- Recognising, supporting and developing everyone's potential.
- Nurturing skills and promoting opportunities.
- Creating an environment for people to think positively and take risks.

Through the Christian value of perseverance:

- Through continual enhancement we are constantly striving to achieve high standards, we never stand still.
- All improvements are underpinned with high aspirations.
- When problems arise, we must hold on to our vision and find solutions.
- We inspire and innovate and we support others to do the same.

1. Introduction

1.1 The governing body, in consultation with the Headteacher, is required to ensure provision of a daily act of Collective Worship for pupils. As a Church Controlled Primary School the trust deed of our school requires the Collective Worship shall be in accordance with the practices and beliefs of the Church of England. At Wardley, our Worship policy is in line with guidelines provided by the Manchester Diocesan Board of Education. As a Church school, we aim to ensure that our worship lies within the framework of the faith and practice of the Church of England. Collective Worship is a valued opportunity for pupils to share a distinctive whole school experience

Our act of worship is a daily focal point for the transmission and development of all that the school stands for in terms of beliefs, values, moral codes and community ethos. As a Church school we would wish to recognise God as a loving creator and the importance of religious influence within life. This would manifest itself in many ways, such as caring, forgiveness and a willingness to understand and learn from each other and from the lives and experiences of others. Everyone is therefore entitled to the love and respect, which that demands.

2. Pupils

2.1 A number of pupils are from families who attend Sunday worship, mostly in Anglican churches, and some of these children have Sunday School experience. There are a few children from other faith communities and ethnic minority groups.

3. Aims and objectives

3.1 Collective worship underpins the school vision that states:

Wardley CE Primary School is committed to continual improvement to ensure that what we do today is even better tomorrow. We provide a happy, secure and supportive learning environment where the children develop independence and work hard to make the most of their talents, and that **'We can do all things'** within a deep and rich curriculum.

We can do all things through Christ who strengthens us

Phillippians 4:13

Our ethos that **we can do all things** is driven by a core set of eighteen Christian values. This ensures we are a learning community with Christ at our centre. Five of these values underpin the five key drivers for our school: friendship, trust, respect, courage & perseverance. These make up our 'Wardley Way'.

Our collective worship plays a major role in the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of the pupils. It is an opportunity to impart an understanding of the Christian faith, its beliefs, traditions and practices whilst respecting each individual's faith stance. It helps promote a sense of community and of self-awareness; it explores relationships and seeks to provide a strong spiritual focus encouraging reflection on how daily lives and personal experiences can be affected by a living faith. It should be delivered so as to be relevant to the differing ages, backgrounds and understanding of the pupils. It should provide an opportunity for spiritual reflection for everyone on each occasion. Whole school acts of worship led by senior pupils provide opportunities

for all our pupils to express their own spiritual awareness and they promote confidence and an awareness of mutual support.

4. Achievement of Aims

4.1 Our planned Collective Worship involves music, singing, prayer, stories, drama, time for reflection, silence and discussion.

4.2 Participants: We recognise the value of staff attendance at acts of worship. Their presence underlines a sense of togetherness and partnership in the school community and provides a valuable link between Collective Worship and classroom life. Governors, parent helpers and visitors are invited to share in acts of worship, when they are in school.

4.3 Our acts of Collective Worship at Wardley are based around the teaching of the 18 Christian values – Courage, Trust, Creativity, Justice, Forgiveness, Peace, Humility, Truth, Thankfulness, Compassion, Hope, Friendship, Generosity, Respect & Reverence, Wisdom, Service, Perseverance and Responsibility. One value is focused on each half-term over a three year cycle. We believe these values are clearly Christian in nature but are universal in their application. Collective worship will also follow the traditions of the Christian faith and often reflect the festivals and events of the Christian calendar.

Over the half-term each of these themes is developed through a weekly cycle of Collective Worship. In the EYFS this is based on short daily acts of Collective Worship in the classroom. In KS1 & KS2 the following pattern is used:

-Monday: Introduction to the 'Thought of the Week' which is linked to the overarching theme.

-Tuesday: An Act of Collective Worship in the classroom – Thoughtful Time. Each class has a Thoughtful Tree display where interesting objects and text can be placed and the Thought of the Week displayed. These are an ever-present and dynamic focal point and reminder of the spiritual Curriculum. The material produced by the class during the half-termly senior pupil prayer space events is shared on the class Thoughtful Tree. During Thoughtful Times, the teacher and children gather together to share ideas and reflection on the Thought of the week. Each class has a Thoughtful Book in which they can write. This book is brought to the Thursday Act of Collective Worship.

-Wednesday: Development of the Thought of the Week or the opportunity to look at separate topical themes based on events in the community.

-Thursday: Development of the Thought of the Week. The senior pupils lead the service. They read out thoughts from the class Thoughtful Books linked to the Thought of the Week. They share a prayer that has been written by one of the classes linked into the termly value from the school's prayer book. The children are also invited to bring their Home Worship books into school and share their thoughts, reflections and prayers.

-Friday: Thanksgiving Worship. In this we are thanking and commending individuals and groups for living out the values of our school vision and the Wardley Way, and thanking God for the gifts he has given.

There is an annual collective worship plan that outlines the weekly worship focuses. This plan also covers special events & occasions that are built into the worship cycle.

These include the half-termly opportunities for the pupils to be worship leaders in events such as ethos committee worship, courageous advocates, senior pupil prayer spaces and seasonal worship such as harvest.

4.4 We use a four part model of worship in our Collective Worship:

- *Gathering*: we are preparing to meet God. The time of worship begins an opening response which everyone joins in with.

- *Engaging*: we engage with the big things and the little things in life and listen to God's message.

-*Responding*: we respond to what we have seen and heard. We are given the opportunity to worship God with prayer and reflection.

-*Sending*: with God's blessing we are sent out to love and serve one another and to make a difference in the world.

4.5 Planning. The school's Collective Worship is based upon the Value for Life material produced by the Church of England.

4.6 Recording. Acts of worship are recorded in the Acts of Collective Worship Grid which is produced each half term.

4.7 Monitoring. Every half-term the school's Ethos Committee engages in reflective discussion with the infant and junior classes to review that half-term's collective worship and consider what went well and what might be improved.

5. Entitlement

5.1 In accordance with The Education Reform Act 1998, all pupils are required to attend a daily act of collective worship.

5.2 We value the opportunity given by acts of worship to create a shared spiritual experience for staff and pupils. However, we do recognise that parents have the right to withdraw their child from acts of worship if they wish. This should be done in a letter addressed to the headteacher.

5.3 Collective worship must take place on the school premises.

5.4 This worship must have a particular religious and educational character, but may take place with different school groups.

6. Resources

6.1 A varied selection of books containing stories and teaching material is available in the RE resource area.

6.2 Local ministers lead assemblies on certain special occasions-currently Easter, Harvest and Christingle. There is also a visit each half-term by a class to All Saints Church to join in with the Wednesday morning service and to give an input on the work the children have been doing on the school's current value.

7. Staff development

7.1 It is important that all staff engaged in providing an act of worship should have proper support and guidance. We recognise that training will heighten confidence leading to increased expertise, especially for in-class worship.

8. Links To Home

8.1 The school recognises the importance of supporting pupils to have the opportunity to grow spiritually, through experiences of prayer, stillness, worship and reflection at home as well as in school. Therefore every infant and junior child is given a home worship book at the start of the academic year. They take this home and, if they want to, they can record any thoughts, reflections or prayers in it in whatever form they want to. This can be linked into the school's weekly worship themes or be something that has come from the child. If they want to, they can bring their books into the weekly Thoughtful Book worship and share them with the school.

9. Worship Co-ordinator

9.1 The worship co-ordinator is responsible for:

- Planning the list of themes for worship and monitoring.
- Monitoring Acts of Worship.
- Staff development.
- Arranging for outside speakers.
- Managing the budget & resources.

10. Monitoring, review and Effectiveness of the Policy

10.1 The Headteacher has responsibility for the day to day operation of this policy and reports to the Governing Body which will review the effectiveness of the policy on an annual basis.