



Bollington Cross Church of England Primary School

Collective Worship Policy

Vision: *At Bollington Cross, we aspire to be a kind, open-hearted community, rooted in relationship and the Christian faith. We look to one another and when our feet slip, we overcome challenges together, enabling flourishing for all.*

Values: *Love, Hope, Peace, Faithfulness*

Last Updated: February 2026

In our school our Christian vision shapes all we do:

At Bollington Cross, we aspire to be a kind, open-hearted community, rooted in relationship and the Christian faith. We look to one another and when our feet slip, we overcome challenges together, enabling flourishing for all.

‘Collective Worship in a Church school should enable every child and adult to flourish and to live life in all its fullness. (John 10:10). It will help educate for wisdom, knowledge and skills, hope and aspiration, dignity and respect, and developing community and understanding of living well together.

Policy Statement

At Bollington Cross, worship is central to the life of school and is one of the main platforms for exploring the school’s vision. It is well planned and of high quality so that the whole school community is engaged on a journey of discovery, exploring the teachings of Jesus and the Bible.

For Christians, worship is about honouring God and responding to the loving nature of God as revealed through the Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. At our school, our children and staff come from a variety of backgrounds, faiths (or no faith) and collective worship must take account of the varied circumstances of our school community.

At Bollington Cross, collective worship aims to be inspirational, invitational and inclusive and will lead people to a threshold where they can witness worship and join in, if they wish.

Through collective worship, pupils will be offered a space and a place for the telling of the Christian story. They will be offered an understanding of worship through being invited to participate in or observe prayer, reading and reflection on the Bible, liturgy, sacrament and experience of the musical and other imaginative riches of Christianity. Opportunities to reflect on the beauty, joy and pain of the world will be given. Pupils will be given time to consider their responsibilities to others and to grow in love and service. Time will be given for celebration, both for the accomplishments of school members and to mark the seasonal festivals of the Christian calendar, as well as observing how celebrations and Christian values are observed around the world. Pupils will be offered time to be able to contemplate and develop spiritually (see spirituality policy).

Church of England Guidance

Collective worship policy at Bollington Cross draws on guidance from the Church of England¹. This guidance document has been produced to challenge, to guide and set expectations for Church school communities and diocesan authorities, encouraging them to reflect on their practice and to ensure that collective worship remains the relevant and essential component of an education that enables our school community to flourish.

Legal Requirements

There must be a daily act of collective worship in all maintained schools for all pupils, other than those in a nursery class or a nursery school. This can take place at any time in the school day and in any groupings. Collective worship in a Church of England School must be in accordance with the tenets and practices of the Church of England. Worship at Bollington Cross Academy should be distinctly Christian and reflect Anglican traditions.

The governing body are tasked with monitoring and evaluating collective worship along with the head teacher and collective worship leader.

The right of withdrawal

At Bollington Cross, there are children whose families are members of another faith, or who hold a non-religious world view. Part of the distinctively Christian nature of Church of England Schools is that they should be as hospitable and inclusive to all in the community they serve. As collective worship occupies such a central place in the life of the Church school, this should be made clear on induction, and it is hoped that parents will be making a specific choice of the school knowing that the distinctive ethos will determine a Christian tradition within collective worship.

The 1944 and 1988 Education Acts state that parents have the right to withdraw children from collective worship and suitable arrangements should be made to accommodate these children.

Parents/guardians have a right to withdraw their children from collective worship and are not obliged to state their reasons for doing so. The school will provide supervision for any withdrawn pupils and respond to parent/guardian requests.

Guiding Principles

Collective worship at Bollington Cross aims to:

- Have a pivotal place in the life of the school
- Support pupils and adults in their spiritual growth

¹ <https://www.churchofengland.org/about/education-and-schools/church-schools-and-academies/collective-worship>

- Be the central vehicle by which the school's vision is unpacked and explored so that the whole school community is challenged and engaged with the teachings of Jesus and the Bible.
- Provide an experience of worship that will offer opportunities for those present to observe and/or respond to the presence, power and peace of God as understood by Christians. This will always be invitational, offering an opportunity to take part whilst allowing the freedom for those of other faiths and none to be present with integrity.
- Support pupils in the development of their understanding of the Trinitarian nature of God in Christian belief
- Provide a variety of different opportunities for reflection, understanding of diverse liturgical traditions, participation, challenge and enjoyment where all present can be actively involved and develop their own spirituality whilst contributing to the communal journey.
- Help children to become familiar with Christian language and symbolism and the cycle of the Church year so that they are offered a pattern of meanings and a framework into which they can begin to integrate experience.
- Explore a variety of ways of praying, giving children the opportunity to form their own prayers using multi-sensory foci and introduce them to some well known Christian prayers, as well as a variety of prayers of thanksgiving before mealtimes and home time.
- Offer opportunities to all children and staff to develop their skills in planning, leading and evaluating the impact of school worship with the support and shared engagement of the local church community. Pupils will be at the centre of this process taking on increasingly independent roles in planning and leading worship.
- Ensure that materials and themes for worship are carefully selected to make sure pupils understand the work of Christians and the church locally, nationally and globally and how this reflects the teachings of the Bible and the example of Jesus.

Development of the policy and links to other policies and documentation

This policy was developed by the school's senior leadership team as well as the school's worship and spiritual development lead. It considers the Church of England's Vision for Education and the Church's Guidance for Collective Worship. The policy was further informed by ongoing reflection with local clergy, ensuring that it offers similarities to worship of our local church setting – St. Oswald's Church. It continues to be modified in relation to CPD and regular reflection.

We ensure that the principles for collective worship are reflected and applied in our policies and practice including those that are concerned with:

- Pupils' personal development and wellbeing
- Spiritual Development
- SMSC and PSHE
- Staff recruitment, retention and professional development
- Care, guidance and support
- Behaviour, discipline and exclusions
- Working in partnership with parents, carers and guardians

- Working with the wider community

We also ensure that information about collective worship is included in the school prospectus and / or on the school website.

How Collective worship is organised

The organisation of collective worship is as listed below:

Leadership

- Daily worship is led by teaching staff and supported by children, including but not limited to 'LIGHT-UP!' – our student worship leader group. At least once a month, whole school collective worship is led by a member of the clergy from St. Oswald's Church whom also occasionally join class worship or to lead special worship events such as seasonal opportunities either indoors or outdoors. Worship in KS1 is periodically led by Open the Book – a team of actors who bring-to-life stories from the Bible.
- Visitors leading worship are always supported by teaching staff and are briefed regarding our policy for collective worship and offered a framework for collective worship.

Planning

- Worship is planned and led by a different member of staff each with, usually with the input of students from that class or 'LIGHT-UP!' – our student worship leaders.
- Staff participate in CPD with the school's worship and spiritual development lead as well as local clergy in how to lead worship with regular updates and modelled practice. Children are invited to lead worship in different aspects such as:
 - Welcoming people to worship
 - Presenting 'the message' which may include reading the gospel, creatively presenting theology, or acting out Bible stories
 - Modelling the 'go forth' challenge
 - Leading opening and closing prayers
 - Developing worship-based initiatives. E.g. Bible comic book exhibition
- Our worship calendar reflects the cycle of the church year with seasonal reflections and celebrations and where appropriate, drawing on links to the school's theological inspired vision and values. Liturgical colours are part of daily collective and class worship.
- We refer to our Christian inspired school values during daily worship with further Christian values explored through a 2-year cycle or worship opportunities, inspired by Imaginor's Roots and Shoots worship scheme.

	Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
Year A	Generosity	Compassion	Courage	Forgiveness	Friendship	Respect

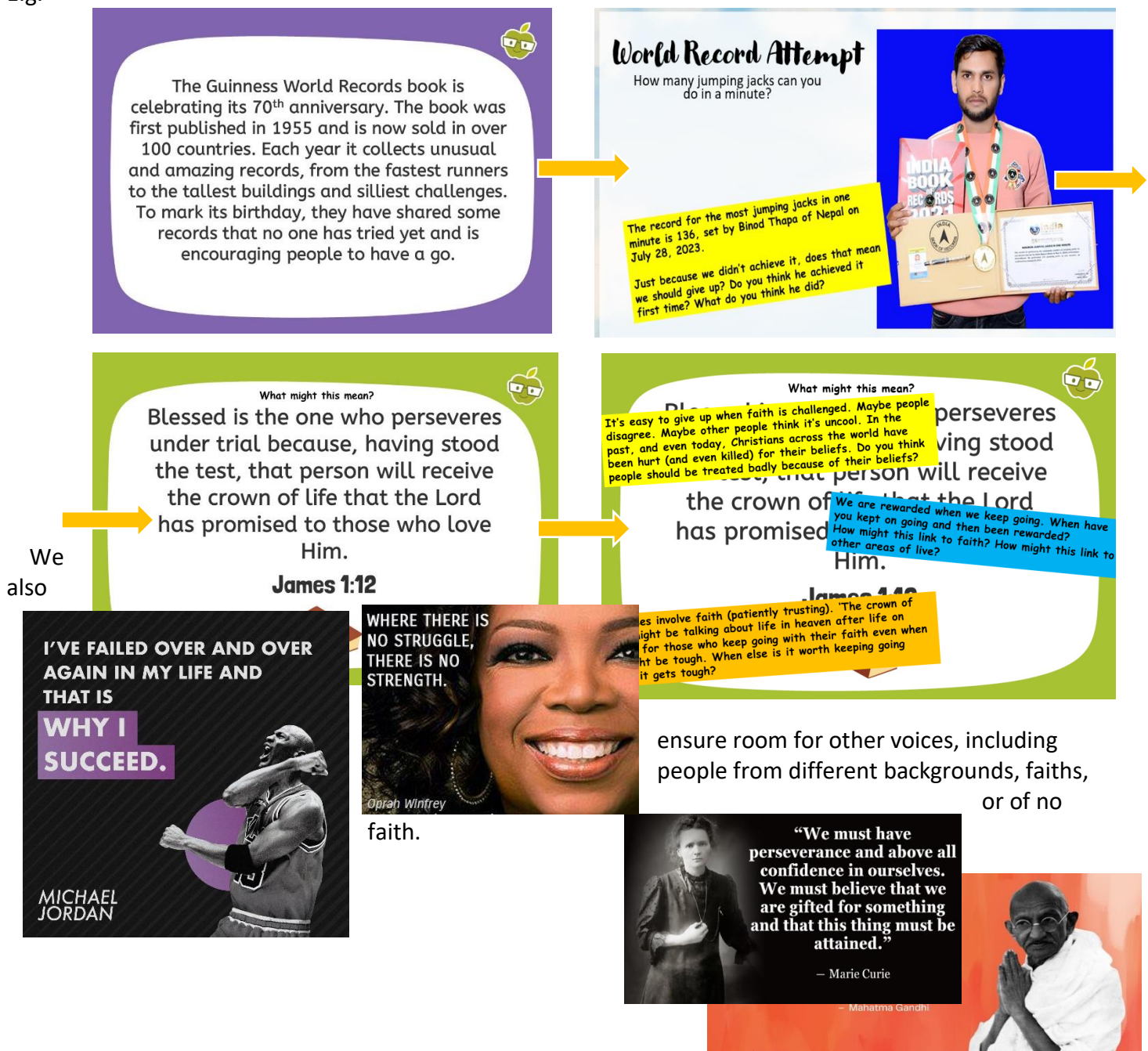
Year B	Thankfulness	Trust	Perseverance	Justice	Service	Truthfulness
Events and Celebrations	Start of Year Prayers Harvest Festival	Remembrance The Lord's Prayer Advent Christmas Celebration	Epiphany Candlemas Shrove Tuesday Ash Wednesday Lent	Lent Holy Week Easter	Trinity Sunday	Y5 Retreat Day End of year prayers

- We focus on a different value each half-term, delving deeply into its different avenues each week, exploring scripture, theology, relations to our vision and events in the church calendar along the way.
E.g

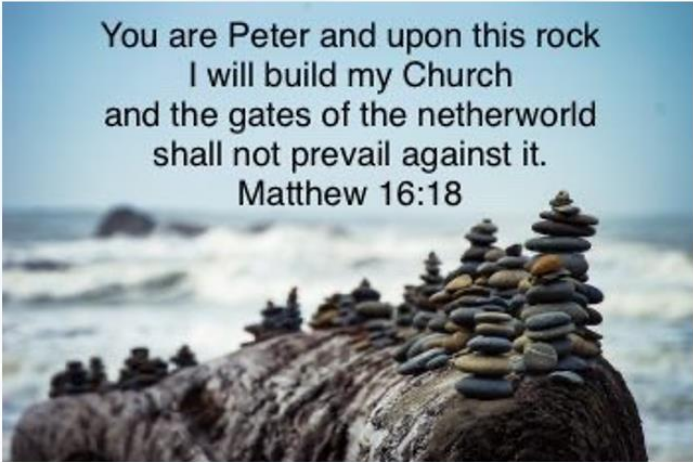
Date	Value	Supporting theology	Links to vision, values and festivals	Bible passages	Bible events
Aut 1 – Week 4 Mrs Harnett	Caring for Creation	We are stewards of the Earth.	Love Peace with Creation (Season of Creation theme) Harvest	Genesis 2:15: "The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it."	Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden

- This is further supplemented by Picture News where children have the opportunity to reflect on the Christian teachings in relation to current events.

E.g.



Explicit links between Bible stories and our Christian inspired values are made throughout the week, particularly on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays when classes focus on scripture in more detail. See the example below:







You are Peter and upon this rock
I will build my Church
and the gates of the netherworld
shall not prevail against it.
Matthew 16:18

It might mean that Jesus trusted people to use his teachings and show their love for themselves, others, the world and God and that if people keep faith, then evil will never prevail and good will always win.

What does this mean to you?

How does this link to our school values?

love
hope
peace
faithfulness



A typical slide used by teachers during collective and class worship.

Our pattern of worship follows the Anglican tradition set by our local church. We gather, prepare for worship, listen to the word of God, reflect and go forth.

- Worship includes a range and variety of materials, including websites, artefacts, stories, drama scripts, artwork, music, songs, film clips, focal points such as images or candles.
- Worship opportunities are provided for children and adults to explore faith in today's world by using Picture News to relate faith to current affairs as well as a weekly focus on how our value or festival is evidenced in Christianity around the world.

E.g.

How is this expressed in Christianity around the world?

[Harvest around the World](#) (2 minutes)

[Harvest Around the World 2](#) (5 minutes)

What interests you? What do you wonder about? What is similar? What is different? How are we connected?

The Christian belief in the Trinitarian nature of God is explored both explicitly and through prayer and reflection. We use language in the following ways to help children understand the Holy Trinity:

God the Creator – ‘Father’ – God **for** us

The Christ – ‘The son’ – God **with** us

The Holy Spirit – God **in** us

Whilst children are aware of the ‘the father’ and ‘the son’ and these words are used in other aspects of worship such as during different festivals or when exploring scripture, we moved towards gender-neutral language to help children develop a deeper, more whole understanding of the Holy Trinity.

Prayer is an essential part of spiritual development within the Christian faith and children are invited to pray daily at different times. The language ‘pray’ is used alongside ‘reflect’ and we explicitly discuss the difference, outlining that reflection can be internal or interactional between people, but Christians believe that prayer is how we keep direct company with God. Prayer at Bollington Cross may involve speaking or listening; music or silence; stillness or movement; doing or being. Prayers are ‘being sent and received’ and we encourage children to look for responses to prayer across daily life, highlighting that responses may present themselves as situations or processes, and that they may not be what we want or expect. Prayer is always invitational and whilst adults model prayer practises, children are welcome to pray or reflect in the moment, however they choose.

We also have a tradition of special prayer events anchored around the liturgical calendar, ensuring that prayer and reflection remain at the heart of school life across the year. Examples include but are not limited to:

- Seasonal prayers in church at the beginning and end of each term
- Easter Fire prayers
- Advent spirals
- Candlemas service
- Christingle service
- Prayer stations across school and in classrooms for daily use
- Daily prayer as part of daily worship
- Prayer initiatives such our Lord’s Prayer lectio divina challenge

Examples of worship and special prayer events can be found on our website.

Organisation

The table below outlines the sequence and content of our weekly worship.

Monday	Collective Worship – supplemented by Roots and Fruits, the whole school reflects on a Christian value through Bible stories and scripture, prayer, and song. Children are sent forth with a challenge to cultivate that value across school for the remainder of the week.	30 minutes
Tuesday	Class Worship - Children reflect on Monday's collective worship and engage in experiential worship opportunities that help bring Christian values to life across school.	15 minutes
Wednesday	Collective Worship – Supplement by Picture News, the whole school learns about a recent news story and reflects on how it links to our value of the week and our school values.	30 minutes
Thursday	Sing and Praise – Children enjoy singing and praising together with a mix of worship music.	15 minutes
Friday	Celebration Worship – The whole school gather to celebrate how our values have been championed as well as celebrating success stories from across the week.	25 minutes

Reflection Areas

Each classroom is equipped with a reflection area, dedicated to spiritual development rooted in the Christian faith, serving as an active resource for prayer and reflection.



Reflection areas are made special in many ways. There are entirely reserved from worship and spiritual growth, only being used for that intent. Reflection areas include but are not limited to:

- Candles to be lit during worship
- A class cross which is decorated through experiential prayer and blessed by our parish clergy
- A copy of the Bible
- A colour cloth reflecting seasonal liturgical colours
- Prayer stations with daily invitational opportunities for experiential prayer
- Responses to 'go-forth' worship challenges
- Written prayers to be used individually or collectively
- Season resources such as images or artefacts

During collective worship, the children traditionally sit in rows in the KS2 hall. During class worship, seating is at the teacher's discretion based on which will best lend itself to spiritual reflection.

Whilst we do enjoy outdoor worship, this remains an area of development. We are currently considering how we might more effectively use our outdoor spaces to support worship. Our faith and spiritual development lead recently participated in CPD in relation to outdoor worship at the North-West Spirituality Conference – training of which we are planning to deliver to all staff in 2026.

Roles and Responsibilities

The various members of staff as outlined below carry out the described roles and responsibilities, helping us to uphold the principles and actions of this policy:

- The **governing body** – monitoring application of this policy
- The **headteacher and the senior leadership team** – planning and leading collective worship on Mondays and Fridays
- **Clergy and church partners** – leading and supporting with collective worship in school and in church in relation to the themes, values, festivals, and events as well as maintaining church links, encouraging attendance at church services and initiatives.
- **Worship and Spiritual Development lead** – working alongside our school and church community to organise and inform a worship calendar as well as ensuring that our worship style and format is consistent with the current approach suggested by the Church of England and Diocesan school's support team as well as supporting staff with CPD and developments in this area.
- **Teaching and support staff** – delivering collective worship as a whole school and leading classroom worship twice per week. All teaching staff attend collective worship.
- **Pupils** – taking an active role in collective worship, including leading prayers, planning and participating 'go forth' worship challenges, welcoming, acting out stories or volunteering in scenarios that help convey the message.

- **Parents and carers** – invited to participate in celebration worship in church at Harvest, Christmas and Easter as well as additional church events such as All Age Worship, Sacred Spaces, Candlemas, and Christingle.

Staff development and training

We ensure that all staff who deliver worship, including support staff, receive appropriate training and opportunities for professional development, both as individuals and as groups or teams. Training and development may include but is not limited to workshops, observation, and discussions related to diocesan updates. Our worship and spiritual development lead provides updates and training through the optional annual training offered by the diocesan education team and through the termly diocesan update meetings as well other worship-based groups. Staff development is also delivered by our local clergy.

Monitoring and evaluation

- Regular observation and reflection from different stakeholders.
- Termly reflections from children, staff and clergy.
- Monitoring and evaluation is expressed by reviewing collective worship in relation to this policy which incorporates both our theologically inspired vision and SIAMS IQ3 (How is collective worship enabling pupils and adults to flourish spiritually?) The evidence is used to support in SIAMS and the reflection cycle further influences amendments to the policy.

We ensure that this policy is known to all staff and governors, parents and carers and, as appropriate, to all pupils. This policy is available on our school website.

Other Useful Documents: (can be found on the diocesan [website](#)²)

Date of last review:

Headteacher signed:

Date:

Chair of Governors signed:

Date:

² <https://exeter.anglican.org/schools/christian-ethos-siams/collective-worship/>