

St Agnes C.E. Primary School

Collective Worship Policy

Approved by: Governing **Date:** October 2025

Last reviewed on: October 2024

Next review due by: December 2026

Every child has the right to think and believe what they choose and also to practise their religion,

Article 14; UNCRC

Learn to do well; seek justice. Defend the oppressed. Take up the cause of the fatherless; plead the case of the widow. *Isaiah 1:17*

Under the Education Act 1996, all maintained schools must provide daily collective worship for all registered pupils.

Organisation of Collective Worship.

The Staff and Governors of St Agnes’ Church of England Primary School place Collective Worship at the centre of the school’s daily life. It is a time when we come together to share Christian values and experiences of our everyday lives, to develop the spiritual, moral, social and cultural understanding of our pupils.

Worship is organised on a whole school basis and is led by different members of the teaching staff, visiting church minister, outside speakers and also the pupils in school. This enables us to provide an exciting and varied approach towards our collective worship and greatly enhances the schools Christian character.

The whole school attends Church at least once during the academic year to reinforce our Church foundation.

The Collective Worship lead has developed an overview of St Agnes collective worship based on parables and our values. Refer to Appendix 1 for Collective worship overview.

The lead has an action plan for collective worship, which include the themes to be developed, the visiting speakers, the focus value for the term as well as other practical elements such as the members of staff responsible for Collective Worship.

The weekly Collective Worship timetable is usually organised as follows:

	Main feature of worship	Led by:
Monday	Phase collective worship - Juniors/Class reflections	Staff/Peace Mala ambassadors
Tuesday	Phase collective worship - Infants /Class reflections	Staff/Peace Mala ambassadors
Wednesday	Collective worship /Class reflections	Staff/Peace Mala ambassadors
Thursday	Collective worship /Class reflections	Staff/Peace Mala ambassadors
Friday	Collective worship /Class reflections Celebration assembly	Staff/Peace Mala ambassadors Head teacher or Deputy Head; Phase leads
Assemblies	Reflecting on the weeks’ events, achievements, extra-curricular activities and club performances, prayer, songs	Head teacher or Deputy Head; Phase leads; Staff Visitors; Member of the clergy; Peace Mala ambassadors

The Nature of Collective Worship at our School

Reflection

Collective Worship at our school is a time when staff and children meet together and have the opportunity to reflect on the non-material dimensions of our lives together in the school community and as individuals. Every class has a Collective worship/area designated for reflection to post personal prayers and share with the class if so. Every day children have the opportunity to engage in worship, where they can develop their own spirituality, such as writing a letter to God, telling God how good he is or praying for someone else. The termly focus of one of the distinctive Christian qualities forms the basis of prayers i.e. Justice, Friendship etc. It is here that children can see 'faith in action'.

Celebration & Achievement

Worship takes place through a variety of media such as Bible teaching, stories, songs, poetry, drama etc. Class led worship is often used as an opportunity to share experiences and achievements with the whole-school community and with parents and friends.

Family Community

Through our Daily Worship we aim to bring an awareness of what it means to be part of a community, which cares for each other, for God and for the environment. In so doing we hope that pupils will develop the ability to explore issues for themselves, be able to reflect upon and learn from experiences and develop a sense of awe and wonder about the wider world whilst understanding their role and responsibilities to their local community.

Equal Opportunities

Staff and Governors are committed to ensuring that opportunities for worship are relevant to all pupils and pay due regard to their ages, abilities and interests. We aim to recognise the equality of each child in God's sight, whatever the child's gender, race, physical or mental ability. Pupils currently take part in collective worship and often lead worship however each parent has the right to withdraw their child for religious reasons.

Special Education Needs

Staff and Governors attempt to ensure that materials and subject matter used in collective worship are appropriate for the range of abilities of all pupils in school.

Planning

Please refer to the Collective Worship overview for the key value for each term, the values and songs that are covered.

Collective Worship includes several features and is planned for in the annual calendar with key dates:

- Biblical theme - parables, values linked verse
- Prayer
- Visitors from St Agnes' Church - incumbent vicar
- Visitors from other churches
- Diocesan representatives - Bishop, Area deacon, Diocesan Children's officer
- Charity focus
- School initiative e.g. Eco, Fair trade initiatives
- Healthy Clubs promotion developing God given gifts and talents
- Friday award celebration and performances with parents
- Visit to St Agnes' Church to celebrate main Christian festivals
- Pupil led prayers and interactive pupil prayer display
- Highlights of the half term and pupil led praise / thankfulness at the end of the half term.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Strategies staff currently use for assessing the outcomes of collective worship include:

- observation of children's reaction and participation during worship
- feedback from children in class - written or verbal
- parents' comments
- visits by link governor
- observations of the quality of worship by the SLT and Collective Worship lead and pupils.

Appendix 1:

Collective Worship at St Agnes: A Two-Week Parable Cycle Overview

At St Agnes C of E Primary School, we use collective worship time to introduce and explore biblical parables through a structured two-week cycle. This approach ensures that our 445 pupils aged 5-11 engage deeply with Christian teachings whilst developing their spiritual understanding across all four key relationships.

The Two-Week Cycle Structure

Week 1: Introduction in Phase Assembly

Phase assemblies serve as the launch point for each parable, where:

- The parable is introduced to the entire phase (e.g. Key Stage 1 or Key Stage 2)
- The story is told in an age-appropriate, engaging way
- Key themes and questions are highlighted
- Initial reflections and discussions take place
- Pupils are given context for the parable and its meaning

Purpose: To create a shared understanding and generate curiosity about the parable's message

Weeks 1-2: Deepening Learning Through Class Collective Worship

Following the phase assembly, class-based collective worship sessions over the next two weeks allow pupils to:

- Explore the parable in greater depth within their own classroom setting
 - Reflect on how the parable connects to their own lives (Relationship with Self)
 - Discuss how the parable's teachings apply to their relationships with others (Relationship with Others)
 - Consider the parable's message about justice, peace, and caring for God's creation (Relationship with the World)
 - Engage with the 'Big Questions' the parable raises about faith and God (Relationship with the Beyond)
-

How This Approach Supports Our Spiritual Development

This two-week cycle aligns with our definition of spirituality as growing Wisdom, practising Justice, and experiencing Peace:

Week	Focus	Spiritual Development
Week 1 - Phase Assembly	Introduction & shared understanding	Thankfulness & Awe - encountering God's word together
Weeks 1-2 - Class Worship	Personal reflection & application	Wisdom & Resilience - developing understanding of self and faith
Weeks 1-2 - Class Worship	Discussion & connection to daily life	Justice & Peace - applying biblical teachings to "Living Well Together"
Weeks 1-2 - Class Worship	Exploring 'Big Questions'	Love & Friendship - building community through shared spiritual exploration

Practical Implementation

Phase Assembly (Week 1)

- Led by: Phase leader or senior leader
- Duration: 15-20 minutes
- Format:
 - Storytelling (using drama, visuals, or multimedia where appropriate)
 - Initial questions for reflection
 - Introduction of key vocabulary or concepts
 - Setting the scene for classroom exploration

Class Collective Worship (Weeks 1-2)

- Led by: Class teacher
- Duration: 10-15 minutes daily
- Format:
 - Revisiting the parable through different lenses
 - Quiet reflection and prayer
 - Small group or paired discussions
 - Creative responses (art, drama, writing)
 - Pupil-led prayers connecting the parable to daily life
 - Links to our Peace Mala work and the Golden Rule

Examples of How Parables Are Explored

The Good Samaritan

Phase Assembly (Week 1):

- Story told with emphasis on helping others and showing compassion
- Questions: "Who is our neighbour?" "How can we show love to others?"

Class Worship (Weeks 1-2):

- Day 1-2: Reflecting on times we've helped others or been helped (Mirror)
- Day 3-4: Discussing how we can be good neighbours in our Manchester community (Window)
- Day 5-6: Exploring what it means to show compassion to people who are different from us (Door)
- Day 7-8: Connecting to Isaiah 1:17 - "Defend the oppressed" - and our Peace Mala work
- Day 9-10: Pupil-led prayers asking God to help us be good neighbours

Benefits of This Approach

- Depth over breadth - Two weeks allows for meaningful engagement rather than surface-level understanding
- Age-appropriate differentiation - Phase assemblies can be tailored to Key Stage 1 or Key Stage 2, with class worship further adapted to individual year groups
- Consistent spiritual thread - The whole phase shares a common spiritual focus, creating opportunities for cross-class discussion
 - Practical application - Pupils have time to connect the parable to their daily lives and relationships
- Pupil ownership - By week 2, pupils can lead prayers and reflections, demonstrating their understanding
- Links to our values - Each parable naturally connects to Wisdom, Justice, Peace, Love, and Friendship

Meeting Statutory Requirements

As a Church of England primary school, we must provide daily collective worship for all registered pupils. Our two-week parable cycle ensures we meet this requirement whilst providing meaningful, progressive spiritual development.

As a school with a religious designation, our worship follows the Christian faith of our school. The focus on biblical parables ensures our collective worship is rooted in Christian teaching whilst remaining accessible and meaningful to all pupils, regardless of their faith background.

This structured approach to collective worship ensures that every pupil at St Agnes has the opportunity to encounter God's word, reflect deeply on its meaning, and apply biblical teachings to their daily lives—all whilst growing in their four key spiritual relationships.

Collective Worship Two Year Overview Year A

	Christian Value	Bible Quote	Bible Story	Song/Hymn
A u t u m n 1	Friendship	Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labour. Ecclesiastes 4 verse 9 (NIV)	Wk 1. Welcome Back - SU	KS1: You've got a friend in me KS2: You can count on me
			Wk 2. The Good Samaritan - Luke 10:25–37, A good friend is kind and helps people in need.	
			Wk 3.	
			Wk 4. The Prodigal Son - Luke 15:11–32, Friends forgive each other when mistakes are made.	
			Wk 5.	
			Wk 6. The Good Shepherd - John 10:1–18, Friends look out for one another and make each other feel safe.	
			Wk 7.	
A u t u m n 2	Thankfulness	Thank God - he's so good! His love never runs out. Psalm 107 verse 1	Wk 1. Visitor?	All: Thank you Lord
			Wk 2. The Ten Lepers (The Thankful Leper) - Luke 17:11–19 (often taught like a parable) Always remember to say thank you for the good things people do for you.	
			Wk 3.	
			Wk 4. The Sower - Matthew 13:1–23, Thankful hearts grow good things— kindness, patience, and joy.	
			Wk 5.	
			Wk 6. The Talents - Matthew 25:14–30, Be thankful for your gifts and use them wisely.	
			Wk 7.	
S p r i n g 1	Peace	Finally, brothers and sisters, rejoice! Strive for full restoration, encourage one another, be of one mind, live in peace. And the God of love and peace will be with you.	Wk 1. Welcome Back - SU	KS1: Peace like a river KS2: My Lighthouse
			Wk 2. The Parable of the Hidden Treasure - Matthew 13:44, Peace comes when we focus on the important things, not on worries or arguments.	
			Wk 3.	
			Wk 4. The Parable of the Wheat and the Weeds - Matthew 13:24–30, Peace comes when we stay calm and patient instead of reacting too quickly.	

		2 Corinthians 13 verse 11	<p>Wk 5.</p> <p>Wk 6. The Parable of the Net (Dragnet) - Matthew 13:47–50, Peace happens when we make careful, good choices instead of rushing or arguing.</p>				
S p r i n g 2	Love	<p>Love your neighbour as yourself.</p> <p>Matthew 22:39 NIV Translation</p>	<p>Wk 1. Visitor?</p> <p>Wk 2. The Two Debtors - Luke 7:41–43, When we forgive others, our hearts become full of love.</p> <p>Wk 3.</p> <p>Wk 4. The Good and Bad Trees - Luke 6:43–45, When we fill our hearts with love, good things come out in what we say and do.</p> <p>Wk 5.</p>	<p>All: He's got the whole world in his hands</p>			
			<p>Wk 1. Welcome Back - SU</p> <p>Wk 2. The Unjust Steward (Shrewd Manager) - Luke 16:1–13, Justice means being honest and using what we're given in the right way.</p> <p>Wk 3.</p> <p>Wk 4. The Barren Fig Tree - Luke 13:6–9, Justice includes fairness, patience, and giving people a chance to change.</p> <p>Wk 5.</p> <p>Wk 6. The Rich Man and His Barns (The Rich Fool) - Luke 12:16–21, Justice means sharing what we have and caring about people who need help.</p>		<p>KS1: KS2: Justice Song</p>		
			<p>Wk 1. Visitor?</p> <p>Wk 2. The Parable of the Tower Builder - Luke 14:28–33, Wise people think before they act and make good plans.</p> <p>Wk 3.</p> <p>Wk 4. The Parable of the Lamp on a Stand - Matthew 5:14–16 (also Mark 4:21–22; Luke 8:16), Wisdom means shining our light—sharing good ideas, kindness, and truth with others.</p> <p>Wk 5.</p> <p>Wk 6. Leavers/End of Year</p>			<p>All: W.I.S.D.O.M.</p>	

Year B

	Christian Value	Bible Quote	Bible Story	Song/Hymn
A u t u m n 1	Friendship	Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labour. Ecclesiastes 4 verse 9 (NIV)	Wk 1. Welcome Back - SU	KS1: You've got a friend in me KS2: You can count on me
			Wk 2. The Lost Sheep - Luke 15:3–7, A good friend doesn't give up on someone and makes sure no one feels left out.	
			Wk 3.	
			Wk 4. The Friend at Midnight - Luke 11:5–10, Friends help each other, even when it's not easy.	
			Wk 5.	
			Wk 6. The Wise and Foolish Builders - Matthew 7:24–27, Good friends build strong friendships by making wise choices, being truthful, and treating each other kindly.	
			Wk 7.	
A u t u m n 2	Thankfulness	Thank God - he's so good! His love never runs out. Psalm 107 verse 1	Wk 1. Visitor?	All: Thank you Lord
			Wk 2. The Lost Coin - Luke 15:8–10, Be thankful for the things you have, even small things.	
			Wk 3.	
			Wk 4. The Rich Fool - Luke 12:13–21, Don't be greedy. Be thankful and share what you have.	
			Wk 5.	
			Wk 6. The Workers in the Vineyard - Matthew 20:1–16, Be thankful for what you have, not jealous of what others get.	
			Wk 7.	
S p r i n g 1	Peace	Finally, brothers and sisters, rejoice! Strive for full restoration, encourage one another, be of one mind, live in peace. And the God of love and peace will be with you.	Wk 1. Welcome Back - SU	KS1: Peace like a river KS2: My Lighthouse
			Wk 2. The Parable of the Pearl of Great Price - Matthew 13:45–46, Peace grows when we choose what is right and good, even if it takes effort.	
			Wk 3.	
			Wk 4. The Parable of the Two Sons - Matthew 21:28–32, Peace grows when we do the right thing, even if we get it wrong at first.	
			Wk 5.	

		2 Corinthians 13 verse 11	Wk 6. The Parable of the Sower - Matthew 13:1–23, Peace grows when we prepare the soil of our hearts so that seeds of harmony can take deep root.	
S p r i n g 2	Love	Love your neighbour as yourself. Matthew 22:39 NIV Translation	Wk 1. Visitor?	All: He's got the whole world in his hands
			Wk 2. The Growing Seed - Mark 4:26–29, Love grows through small, everyday acts of kindness.	
			Wk 3.	
			Wk 4. The Wise and Faithful Servant - Luke 12:35–48, Love is shown by being reliable, caring, and doing the right thing.	
			Wk 5.	
S u m m e r 1	Justice	Blessed are those who act justly, who always do what is right. Psalm 106:3	Wk 1. Welcome Back - SU	KS1: KS2: Justice Song
			Wk 2. The Wicked Tenants (Vineyard Tenants) - Matthew 21:33–46, Justice happens when people are treated fairly and wrong actions have consequences.	
			Wk 3.	
			Wk 4. The Wedding Feast (King's Wedding Banquet) - Matthew 22:1–14, Justice means treating everyone the same and following fair rules.	
			Wk 5.	
			Wk 6. The Parable of the Persistent Widow - Luke 18:1–8, Justice grows when we refuse to give up and continue to speak out for what is right until fairness is achieved.	
S u m m e r 2	Wisdom	The beginning of wisdom is this: Get wisdom, and whatever you get, get insight. Proverbs 4:7	Wk 1. Visitor?	All: W.I.S.D.O.M.
			Wk 2. The Parable of the Minas – Luke 19:11–27, Wisdom means using our time, talents, and opportunities well.	
			Wk 3.	
			Wk 4. The Speck and the Log - Matthew 7:3–5, Wise people think carefully before judging others and try to fix their own mistakes first.	
			Wk 5.	
			Wk 6. Leavers/End of Year	

Suggested class-based follow up activities:

<u>Quick Retell & Discussion</u>	<u>Drawing & Visual Activities</u>	<u>Movement & Drama</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Retell the parable in 1–2 sentences ○ Share your favorite part of the story ○ Describe a character in one word ○ Ask “What would you do?” in a situation from the parable ○ Pair-share: each child tells a partner the moral or main event ○ Quick Q&A: 3–5 simple questions about the story ○ Compare the story to something in real life ○ “Story in a Minute”: summarize the parable aloud in 60 seconds ○ True or False statements about the story ○ “Who said it?” guessing game with character quotes ○ Quick debate: “Who did the right thing?” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Draw the most important scene from the story ○ Draw a character and write 3 words describing them ○ Draw the ending you imagine ○ Make a comic strip with 3 panels (beginning, middle, end) ○ Draw the character showing their emotion at a key moment ○ Emoji summary: draw emojis for events or characters ○ Quick storyboard on a single sheet of paper ○ Draw a “before and after” of the main event ○ Sketch the setting of the parable ○ Draw a symbol for the story (e.g., coin, seed, tree) ○ Make a mini poster summarizing the parable 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Freeze frame: strike a pose showing a key moment ○ Act out a single scene in pairs ○ Use gestures only to retell the story ○ Create a “story walk” showing events through movement ○ Quick puppet show using socks or paper puppets ○ Use scarves or props to represent characters and act out movements ○ Sound effects: add simple sounds to the retelling ○ Role swap: act as a different character than usual ○ Quick “tableau” in small groups (all pose together as a scene) ○ Mime the story silently
<u>Games & Interactive</u>	<u>Notebook / Book Activities</u>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Sequencing: put 3–5 events in order ○ Thumbs up/down for character decisions ○ “Guess the character” with clues ○ Word cloud: write 3–5 words describing the parable ○ Memory game: match characters to events on cards ○ Cause-and-effect chain: link actions to results ○ Mini treasure hunt: hide small story-related items ○ “Pass the story”: each child adds a sentence orally ○ Quick sorting game: sort actions as “wise/foolish” or “helpful/unhelpful” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Draw a symbol for the story and explain why it represents it ○ Write a question you have about the story ○ Design a story map with events, characters, and setting ○ Make a word cloud of 5–10 words about the parable ○ Draw a modern version of the parable ○ Write a short poem or song inspired by the story ○ Draw a comic speech bubble for each character’s main line ○ Number the main events of the story in order ○ Draw arrows showing cause and effect between actions ○ Make a “timeline” of events with short captions ○ Use doodles to show what happens first, next, and last 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Write 1–2 sentences summarising the parable ○ Draw the main event and write a short caption ○ Create a mini comic strip (3–5 panels) ○ Rewrite the story in your own words ○ Write a diary entry as if you are one of the characters ○ Make a “thought bubble” showing what a character might be thinking ○ Compare two characters in a Venn diagram ○ Write one lesson or moral from the story ○ Draw or write how you would act in a character’s situation ○ List 3 things you notice about people in the story ○ Write a mini “news report” about the story