Grange C of E School

'Let us consider how we may encourage one another to love and to do good deeds.' Hebrews 10:24

Collective Worship Policy 2026

Inclusive ❖ Invitational ❖ Inspiring

1. Background: Collective Worship Legislation and Guidance

All maintained schools must provide daily Collective Worship for all registered pupils and promote their spiritual, moral and cultural development.

In community schools, Collective Worship must be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character'.[1]

In Church schools, the requirement is instead to reflect the Anglican status of the school as expressed in its trust deed. This means that every act of Collective Worship at Grange C of E School is distinctively Christian.

Best practice in delivering Collective Worship[2] requires it to be:

- **Inclusive:** so that is accessible and meaningful to all, whatever their faith or none.
- **Invitational:** so that there is no compulsion to 'do anything' just a warm offer to be present and engage with integrity.
- **Inspiring:** so that it motivates pupils and adults into action, into thinking differently, and into reflecting on their and wider community's behaviour and actions.

2. Collective Worship and Vision:

Collective Worship is the most special time of each day at Grange C of E School. It is the time when we gather together, pause and reflect as a whole school and weekly in our classes.

Collective Worship is an expression of our Vision and contributes significantly to the flourishing of all. It offers pupils the opportunity to recognise that everyone is unique, valued and loved. It gives children the chancce to make themselves heard, to develop skills and contribute to the shared understanding that everyone matters. It enables pupils and adults to develop spiritually, emotionally and socially, asking, reflecting on and answering big questions about meaning and our responsibilities as part of a global community including, *'Who am I?' 'Why am I here' 'How then shall I live?'*

2. Invitational Worship and Spiritual Development:

Our word 'Worship' comes from an Old English word meaning to acknowledge or attribute worth. If we choose to worship, we are acknowledging how and why God is worthy of praise and thanks. It is a personal experience which depends on an individual's attitude. Worship which is directed by, or insisted upon, by someone else is not, in fact, worship.

At our school, worship is invitational. All are offered the chance to worship daily, including through prayer and through song but it is not expected. Collective Worship does not pre-suppose shared beliefs or convictions. It does not seek a uniform response from pupils or adults.

Through our Religious Education (RE) curriculum, our Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) curriculum and our reflective times in the classroom we support pupils in developing their own personal convictions. Our school offers pupils a safe space in which to explore their feelings, thoughts and beliefs.

Every day, all members of our school community are taken to the threshold of worship. Whether or not to cross it is for the individual to decide.

3. How Collective Worship is made special:

We take the time to make our Collective Worship time special every day by:

- Creating an atmosphere which is conducive to worship and/or reflection (through use of music, a visual focus, artefacts.
- Careful and intentional timetabling so that Collective Worship time is not disrupted by other activities occurring on the school site and occurs at a time when pupils are most responsive in the morning.
- Ensuring every member of the school family is present. We aim not to withdraw pupils from Collective Worship for interventions or 'catch-up' time.
- Choosing themes and content which are appropriate to our school context, reflect our vision and are pitched appropriately for those present.
- Inspiring each member of our school community to reflect on their own behaviours and how they might make a change for their own sake or for the sake of others.

4. Aims of Collective Worship:

We aim to make every act of Collective Worship meaningful, engaging and relevant to those present, whether they choose to worship or not. As a Church of England school, our worship is predominantly Christian in nature.

However, at this school, we ensure that everyone, whatever their faith or none, can take part with integrity. For example, a Bible story illustrating Jesus' teachings (on loving one another, on caring for the vulnerable, on generosity or any other theme) will regularly be shared. The message of that Christian story is unpacked and made relevant to everyone in attendance so that all may be inspired by it.

Collective Worship sessions offer rich opportunities for teaching and encouraging reflection. At this school, we have the following aims for acts of Collective Worship:

- To offer pupil-centred sessions which either reflect pupils' experiences or appropriately expand and broaden them (content).
- To provide variety (in terms of content, the ways in which pupils are encouraged to interact, the use of music etc) to appeal to the preferences of as many pupils as possible.
- To afford pupils and adults space to reflect on the spiritual, acknowledging the capacity of our pupils to seek meaning beyond the material and physical.
- To allow time to respond to social and moral issues and the questions which relate to life as a global citizen.
- To provoke in those present a sense of meaning, wonder, joy and celebration or thanksgiving.
- To enable pupils and adults to explore the use of silence for stillness reflection, guided meditation, exploring inner thoughts and feelings and, as appropriate, prayer.
- To heighten pupils' awareness of questions relating to the ultimate mysteries of life and to explore the responses that have been made to these questions by people of faith.
- To develop an understanding of how the teachings of Jesus and the Bible are relevant to each of us, whatever our personal convictions.
- To provide opportunities for pupils and staff to explore and celebrate the Christian values on which the school is based.
- To enable the school community to explore a range of forms of worship and recognise the rich traditions of the Anglican church (locally, nationally and around the world) and in the Cumbrian context, those of our Methodist, Salvation Army and United Reformed Church Ecumenical Partners.
- To develop an understanding of the Christian belief in a God of three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

5. Use of Music

The use of music at Grange C of E School is very important. We use music which reflects our school's vision. Music plays an important part in developing our pupils as respectful and loving global citizens, and in helping them develop spiritually. We introduce our pupils to a diverse range of musical styles and genres to help them find the music which is most helpful to them for reflection or worship. We also represent (through video) a diverse make-up of cultures and backgrounds to help our pupils to make sense of the rich global musical community and how music is used in worship across the globe.

Music is chosen carefully to avoid asking pupils to declare a faith in God they may not have. Some of our music contains elements which are confessional (they declare a faith in God or desire to worship). However, where such songs are used, we explain what the lyrics mean to Christians in order that pupils (and staff) may decide, for themselves, whether to sing them. We take the time to explain that some songs, sung by Christians, involve the artists singing to God. However, the words of such songs lend themselves to our school family choosing to sing to whomever they wish – God, a family member, a friend. Examples include *My Lighthouse and One More Step Along the World I Go which is always used at the end of year service for Leavers.*

Some worship songs used are great for music-based or other learning opportunities (regardless of whether the lyrics are reflective of pupils' beliefs) and, as such, have great worth as a teaching tool. By using worship songs for more than just their lyrics, they are made invitational and relevant to all. Some songs used in worship imply a greater presence and pupils can apply the words to their own idea such as being rooted in the spirituality of nature.

6. Organisation

An act of Collective Worship takes place daily[1] and usually lasts 15 minutes.

Day	***Time***	***Nature of Worship***	***Leader***
Monday	*9.45*	*Whole School: Theme for the week*	*Headteacher*
Tuesday	*9.45*	*Whole School: Develops Theme for the week*	*Clergy*
Wednesday	*9.45*	*Class Worship*	*Class teachers or pupils*
Thursday	*9.45*	*Whole School*	*Visitor or Headteacher*
Friday	*8.55* *or 9.45*	*Whole school celebration*	*Headteacher and Pupils and parents/carers* *Headteacher*

Visitors play an important part in the life of our school and regularly contribute to acts of worship. We invite members of charitable organisations who offer their expertise to the school (For example NISCU, the NSPCC and other local groups) to lead us in worship. We also have visitors from other faith groups such as Bahai friends and from the local community churches such as the youth worker. Inspirational visitors and those who share their vision and expertise with us add to the rich diversity of the worship.

At Harvest Festival time, Christmas, Easter and to say 'goodbye' to our Year 6 Leavers, the whole school, and our family and community, visits the church for an act of worship led jointly by the pupils and the church.

7. Content

We follow a values-based yearly plan for Collective Worship focussing on one of our core Christian values each term with another value running alongside. It is broken down into weekly sub themes with a key text from the bible identified. These themes are reflected in the hall and classrooms. Where relevant the 'SCARF' theme for the half term is also linked with the CW.

The school uses a variety of resources when planning collective worship. Amongst others, we utilise materials from York Diocese: Journey through the Bible plus resources from Picture News, Imaginor-Roots and fruits, Christian Aid, SCARF and other story/parable-based explorations also including resources from the world-wide

church. In addition, the school has a global outlook and a focus on UNCRC and associated resources, relating these to our school motto 'Achieve-Believe-Care.'

Content for some individual sessions is not overly prescribed, in order to allow for those leading to draw on topical or world events, personal experiences, situations which have arisen in the school or wider community.

However, planning always includes:

- an explanation of how the current value helps us to live out our vision.
- links to the Church year
- suggested relevant Bible stories
- reference to relevant world faiths/festivals/celebrations occurring
- relevant links with PSHE, SMSC and British Values or any other part of the school curriculum
- suggestions for activities or opportunities for children's participation through role play, drama, discussion, reflection stations, singing etc
- ideas for following up whole-school worship either in the classroom
- suggestions for reflection stations/areas relevant to the theme of the half term.

Crucially, our planning also reflects the input of the pupils *via the worship leaders and pupil voice exercises .*

Worship generally takes place in the hall or the classroom, but can be taken outside in class worship times where the pupils tell us they feel more spiritual.

8. Training

Any leader of worship, whether pupil or adult, has access to ongoing training and development to support them in their role. Through this training, we ensure a consistent approach to the use of inclusive and invitational language in all worship sessions. Staff attending Diocesan training disseminate key learning to colleagues, while pupils are supported by teachers in developing their leadership of worship through coaching and resources such as the *Picture News* materials.

9. Visitors

Visitors play an important part in the life of our school and regularly contribute to acts of Collective Worship. We are very grateful to those people in our local community who give their time to lead worship in our school. Pupils benefit greatly from the varied experiences they provide.

A copy of this policy, together with planning for the current half term is shared with all visitors who lead Collective Worship.

10. Evaluation of Collective Worship

The effectiveness and impact of Collective Worship is monitored termly. Monitoring involves the whole school community. It is led by governors who regularly join us for acts of Collective Worship, meet with members of staff who lead worship and conduct pupil voice exercises.

The views of pupils are fed back to the Headteacher and the class teacher so their views inform future planning.

11. Right of Withdrawal

Given the inclusive and invitational nature of our acts of Collective Worship outlined above, we hope that every parent or carer would wish their child to take part in this special part of the school day. However, parents do have the legal right to withdraw their children from Collective Worship. There is no requirement to explain or give reasons for a request of withdrawal. However, if this is something you are considering for your child, you are warmly encouraged to contact the Headteacher, who will be happy to answer any questions you may have. We will, of course, supervise any pupil withdrawn from Collective Worship and keep him or her safe. However, please be aware that we are unable to provide alternative teaching.

12. Review of this Policy

This policy will be reviewed every two years.

13. References

1. *Education Reform Act 1988*, Sections 6 and 7; *DfE Circular 1/94: Religious Education and Collective Worship*.
2. *Collective Worship in Church of England Schools: Inclusive, Invitational, Inspiring* (The Church of England Education Office, 2021).
3. *Church of England Vision for Education: Deeply Christian, Serving the Common Good* (2016). This is often referenced alongside collective worship policies as the underpinning vision for Church schools.

Date ratified:	9th September 2026
Signature of Chair of Govs:	
Review date:	**September 2026**
Next Review date:	**September 2028**