



Thorndon C of E Primary School

Collective Worship Policy

Every Child Valued – Every Mind Nurtured

Approved by: Governors Date: Autumn 2025

Last reviewed Autumn 2025
on:

Next review Autumn 2028
due by:

Vision

At Thorndon Primary School, we are proud to be a nurturing and inclusive community where every child is supported to grow and flourish. Inspired by the Parable of the Mustard Seed (Mark 4:30–34), we believe that even the smallest beginnings can lead to great things. Just as the tiny mustard seed grows into a large tree that offers shelter and safety, we nurture each child's potential so they can thrive and support others.

Our ethos is rooted in three core values:

- **Nurturing** – We guide every child with care and compassion, helping them grow academically, emotionally, and spiritually.
- **Belonging** – Every child is welcomed, valued, and celebrated. We create a safe space where all can take root and thrive.
- **Community** – Together with families and staff, we build strong, trusting relationships that support every child's journey.

Through these values, our children grow into confident, resilient individuals who contribute positively to the world around them.

Aims

As a Church of England School, our vision for Collective Worship reflects our Christian ethos and the values of *Nurturing, Belonging, and Community*. Worship is a time where staff and children come together to experience, learn, reflect, and grow — both in their understanding of God and of themselves.

Inspired by the Parable of the Mustard Seed, we believe that small acts of faith and kindness can grow into something meaningful and life-giving. Our worship celebrates this truth, offering space for spiritual growth, shared reflection, and connection.

Through prayer, singing, storytelling, and celebration, Collective Worship nurtures the hearts and minds of our school community. It is a place where everyone — regardless of faith background — is welcomed and valued. We honour diversity and encourage respect, ensuring that worship is inclusive, invitational, and rooted in love.

Together, we grow as a community, supporting one another and building a strong foundation of compassion, hope, and belonging.

Purpose

Within our provision of Collective Worship we try to meet the following aims for all children:

- Provide an opportunity for the children to worship God
- Enable children to consider social, moral, spiritual and cultural issues
- Enable children to explore their own beliefs or world views.
- Encourage participation and response
- Develop in children a sense of community spirit
- Promote a common ethos with shared values and reinforces positive attitudes

Legal Requirements

1. All registered pupils (apart from those whose parents exercise the right to withdrawal) must on each school day take part in an act of Collective Worship.
2. The daily act of Collective Worship should be conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Trust Deeds of the school and the ethos statement in the Instrument of Government, and should be consistent with the beliefs and practices of the Church of England.
3. All acts of Collective Worship in Church schools must be Christian in character. Pupils can be grouped in various ways for worship such as the whole school, year groups, tutor groups, classes, or other combinations.
4. Acts of worship must be appropriate for the pupils in that they should take account of the pupils' age, aptitude and family backgrounds.
5. The daily act of Collective Worship will normally take place on the school premises but schools may hold their Act of Collective Worship elsewhere (e.g. the local Parish Church) on special occasions.
6. Responsibility for the arrangement of Collective Worship in a Church of England school rests with the Foundation Committee who report to the School Governance Committee (SGC) in consultation with the Head of School and Collective Worship lead.
7. The Collective Worship lead has a responsibility to ensure all arrangements for Collective Worship are secured.

Anglian Faith and Practice

In addition to the above, we provide acts of Collective Worship that reflect the faith and practice of the Church of England as a part of the heritage of our school. We use the following indicators:

- **BIBLICAL** - the bible is used as a sourcebook for inspiration and learning and makes pupils familiar with the Lord's Prayer and other verses of scripture.
- **LITURGICAL** - aspects of Anglican liturgy, such as greetings, are used to create a framework for worship – we use the structure of gathering, engaging, responding and sending; pupils are also introduced to a variety of well- known prayers, many of which express central beliefs of Christians throughout the ages.
- **EUCCHARISTIC** - we introduce children to the central act of Anglican worship in our RE lessons.
- **SEASONAL** - we observe the cycle of the Anglican year including celebrations of the major Christian festivals
- **SYMBOLIC** - we use Christian symbols as a focus for reflection
- **ECUMENICAL** - we work with other local Christian denominations (aspirational)
- **DIVERSE** - we provide opportunities to discover the variety of worship in Anglican churches.

Collective Worship Ambassadors

Each year, pupils are invited to apply for the role of Worship Ambassador, a position of responsibility and service within our school community. These ambassadors play a key role in preparing the worship space, welcoming and dismissing pupils during Collective Worship, leading the school prayer, and concluding the day with a reflective classroom prayer. Their leadership supports our ethos of nurturing spiritual growth and fostering a sense of belonging and community.

We maintain strong and meaningful links with our local parish church. The Rector joins us for Collective Worship through the '*Open the Book*' initiative, which enriches our worship experience and strengthens the connection between school and church life.

As part of the Christian calendar, we visit the parish church to celebrate key events such as Harvest, Christmas, Easter, and our Leavers' Service, alongside other special assemblies. The collective worship ambassadors help to plan these special occasions and take lead roles reading extracts from the bible and prayers in their role. These shared moments of worship and celebration deepen our collective understanding of faith and reinforce our commitment to growing together in respect, reflection, and unity.

Thorndon School Prayer

Dear God,
Thank you for the tiny mustard seed,
A symbol of hope and growth from small beginnings.
Help us nurture the gifts you've planted in each of us,
That we may grow in kindness, strength, and wisdom,
May we always feel a sense of belonging
And celebrate our uniqueness.
Amen

Thorndon End of Day Prayer

Dear God,
Thank you for the day we've shared,
For the seeds of kindness and learning planted in our hearts.
Help us to nurture all we've grown today,
And carry your love with us wherever we go.
Amen

Connections with other Christian denominations and faiths

We recognise that some of our pupils and families belong to Anglican churches, some worship regularly at churches of other Christian denominations, while others come from different faith backgrounds or none. We endeavour to provide a setting in which everyone's integrity is respected and honoured, and in which everyone finds something positive for themselves and

there is no pressure to participate inappropriately or to believe. This runs alongside the ethos of our Parish Church, which is there to welcome and serve everyone, just as they are.

Rights and Responsibilities

As established by the 1944 Act and reinforced in this policy, parents have the right to withdraw their children from Collective Worship. We will seek advice from the Diocesan Schools' Adviser with regard to legal requirements and the management of withdrawal.

Planning

Collective Worship is planned and led by the Collective worship lead, Head of School and Teaching Staff members and is delegated to an appropriate member of staff each day of the week. Members of the Ethos Committee may also be involved in the planning.

Plans follow the cycle of the Anglican year, celebrating festivals and saints' days as appropriate. Each half-term explores a Christian value in a variety of ways, through story, song, prayer and reflection, and we use the Diocesan Education Team's resources for planning alongside the 'Values for Life' resources as provided by the Church of England.

Organisation

The act of worship is organised across the week differently, but an act of Collective Worship is always held daily which may involve the whole school or classes. Each collective worship session always begins with a greeting and ends with a sending and the School Prayer as read by the collective worship ambassadors.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Staff Lead Values for life Intro	Singing	Head of School Values for life	In class worship Values for life	Staff Lead Values for life continued

Aspects of Collective worship are discussed regularly in staff meetings, WGB meetings and by the Worship Ambassadors. Governors and locals are invited to attend special collective worship services in church.

Resources

Collective Worship resources are routinely reviewed, including books, access to websites, child-friendly Bibles and good quality music.

Contribution to Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development

SMSC development is included in acts of Collective Worship as well as being fostered across the whole curriculum. For example, children will be encouraged to reflect on and celebrate the deeper meanings of life, consider their own behaviour and recognise the need for forgiveness, appreciate the contributions of others and respond to their needs, value their own culture and the cultures of others.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The Executive Headteacher, Worship Ambassadors and the Foundation Governors routinely monitor and evaluate the impact of Collective Worship.

Inclusion

We are committed to equality of opportunity regardless of race, gender, cultural background, ability or any physical or sensory disability. We therefore aim to make Collective Worship accessible to all and accommodate ourselves to individual needs as appropriate e.g. taking account of different learning styles and using multi-sensory approaches.

Review

This policy will be monitored annually by the Foundation Governors and reviewed every 3 years.