

Meanwood CE Primary School



Collective Worship Policy

Policy Approved By:	Governing Body / Headteacher (Jamie Chapman)
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Monitoring Lead:	Headteacher

1. Core Vision and Christian Values

At Meanwood CE Primary School, our educational mission is driven by our distinct Christian vision: **"Every person is valued, nurtured and empowered to achieve their full potential."** This vision is firmly underpinned by scripture, specifically Jesus' commandment to **"love one another as I have loved you"** (John 15:12).

We translate this vision into three core invitations that guide our daily interactions, inclusive relationships, and worship life:

- **Open Hearts:** We enter worship ready to listen and learn from one another. We strive to look on others with compassion, valuing each individual's unique story and background.
- **Open Minds:** We cultivate awe, wonder, and critical thinking. We reflect deeply on scripture, ethical topics, and the world, encouraging an open dialogue that values questions and seeking wisdom.
- **Open Arms:** We welcome all people, of all faiths and none. We stand together as one supportive family, celebrating diversity, extending hospitality, and actively restoring relationships when harm occurs.

2. School Ethos, Inclusivity, and Leeds Diocese Guidance

Collective Worship is an integral and highly valued part of life at Meanwood CE Primary School. It represents the heartbeat of our community and expresses our foundation as a Church of England school. We operate in close partnership with, and draw inspiration from, the advice and guidance of the **Leeds Diocesan Board of Education**. This policy seeks to reflect the diocese's expectations by establishing an act of worship that is highly qualitative, deeply inclusive, and spiritually enriching.

In accordance with our Diocesan guidelines, we recognise that our school serves a diverse population. We continuously strive to ensure that everyone in our school is treated with respect and dignity. Each person is given fair and equal opportunities to develop their full potential with positive regard to gender, ethnicity, cultural and religious background, faith, sexuality, or disability. Collective worship is inclusive, educational, and respectful of the integrity of all participants, whether they belong to the Christian church, other world faiths, or hold non-religious beliefs.

3. Legal Framework

Under the Education Act 1988, collective worship must take place daily in all maintained schools. As a voluntary controlled Church of England school, our collective worship must be:

1. Consistent with the faith, discipline, and denominational character of the Church of England.
2. Christian in nature, reflecting the Trinitarian character of Christian theology, while remaining accessible and appropriate for pupils of all faiths and none.
3. Conducted daily, either as a whole school, key stages, or in classroom-based groups.

4. The Invitational and Reflective Philosophy

At Meanwood, collective worship is explicitly **invitational** and **reflective**. We never coerce, force compliance, or assume personal faith. Instead, we issue a warm, open-armed invitation to cross the threshold into a sacred space, allowing children to engage at their own level of comfort and belief.

To facilitate genuine spiritual growth, our planning and delivery attempts always to interweave our **four core aspects of spirituality**, which we seek to develop in every pupil:

Aspect of Spirituality	How this is expressed in Collective Worship
Self	Reflecting on our own feelings, inner landscape, values, and personal growth. Encouraging self-knowledge, identity, and personal peace.
Others	Building empathy, listening to diverse stories, understanding and resolving harm, and showing love and compassion in action (CARE values).
The World	Developing a sense of awe, wonder, and responsibility for the environment, natural beauty, scientific mystery, and social justice.
The Sacred & Significant	Encountering the divine, engaging with Christian theology, the teachings of the Bible, prayer, liturgy, and exploring ultimate questions of meaning, purpose, and value.

5. Our Collective Worship Formula

To ensure consistency, depth, and a rhythm of liturgical practice, all collective worship at Meanwood CE Primary School follows a specific 7-step formula. This structure mirrors Christian liturgical traditions while remaining accessible to all children:

1. Welcome: We gather together with a physical or spoken greeting (e.g., lighting a candle, heart formation). We establish our boundaries of respect, entering with Open Hearts.

2. Hymn / Song: We join our voices in song, expressing community, joy, or quiet contemplation. Singing is used to unify the community and ground our minds.

3. Introduction: The focus or theme of the day is introduced, often linked to the Bible, the Christian calendar, or our values. We set the stage for discovery and intellectual curiosity (Open Minds).

4. Liturgy: Engaging with traditional and contemporary liturgies. Children participate in active dialogue, learning the shared language of faith.

5. Reflection: A vital, quiet, and reflective space where pupils are encouraged to ponder the daily message. This space invites personal interpretation and connects directly with their personal lives (Self, Others, World).

6. Prayer: An invitational moment of prayer. We invite those who wish to pray to close their eyes or join in, while those of other faiths or none are invited to use the time to reflect quietly on the theme or think positive thoughts.

7. Sending: We are formally sent forth into the rest of the day with a blessing, an active challenge, or a closing phrase, carrying the values explored into our playground, classrooms, and homes (Open Arms).

6. The Weekly Collective Worship Pattern

Our collective worship is structured across the week to provide a balanced diet of shared community worship, age-appropriate developmental learning, and quiet class-based reflection:

Day	Worship Style & Group	Details and Core Activities
Monday	Whole School Collective Worship	Led by the Headteacher (Jamie Chapman) or local clergy. Gathers our entire community together under our Christian vision. Introduces the core theological theme and CARE value of the week, establishing a spiritual foundation for our school life.
Tuesday	Key Stage Worship / Picture News	Alternating structure. One Key Stage gathers for a focused collective worship in the school hall led by a teacher. The other Key Stage participates in class-based worship (detailed below).
Wednesday	Key Stage Worship / Picture News	Alternating structure. Key Stages swap hall/classroom settings. The Key Stage in classrooms engages in class-based worship based on Picture News, ensuring all

		children experience a balanced cycle of peer discussion and group liturgy.
Thursday	Song Worship	Whole school gathering focused on singing as a physical and spiritual act of communal praise. Led by Ella Parker. Introduces and explores the theological significance behind our hymns and worship songs, connecting lyrics to our values.
Friday	Celebration Collective Worship	Whole school gathering to end the week. A celebratory space where children are individually recognised and celebrated for demonstrating our weekly Christian focus and values in action. Bridges school achievement and Christian character.

6.1 Detailed Protocol: Classroom Picture News Worship

When a Key Stage is not gathered in the school hall on Tuesdays or Wednesdays, they participate in high-quality, classroom-based collective worship. These sessions are designed around **Picture News**, a topical resource that links current worldwide issues to core Christian values, our school vision, and British values.

Key characteristics of this model include:

- **Safe and Reflective Environment:** Classroom worship provides a smaller, more intimate setting. Teachers facilitate structured, supportive opportunities where children are encouraged to discuss complex, real-world topics openly, building confidence in self-expression and empathy (Open Minds, Open Hearts).
- **Active Agency & Prophetic Voice:** We believe that children's reflections should never be purely intellectual. The discussions held in these classroom worship sessions are documented and **actively lead to concrete change within the school**. This includes influencing our student council actions, shaping ecological campaigns, altering school processes, or launching charity and community support efforts (Open Arms).

7. Planning, Personnel, and Clergy Links

Worship themes are mapped out on an annual basis, ensuring a balanced coverage of Christian festivals and seasons, Biblical teaching, and moral issues. This is co-ordinated by the Headteacher and the RE/Worship Lead, in close collaboration with the local clergy.

Local clergy from our parish church visit the school regularly to lead acts of collective worship on Mondays, providing a valuable link between the school, the parish, and the wider church family. Special

services (e.g., Christmas, Easter, Harvest) are held at the parish church, where parents, carers, and the community are warmly invited to join us (Open Arms).

8. Parental Right of Withdrawal

We expect all children to attend and benefit from our daily collective worship. However, in accordance with the Education Act 1988, parents have a legal right to withdraw their children from acts of worship on grounds of religious conscience. Any parent wishing to exercise this right must contact the Headteacher in writing.

The school will maintain an open-door policy, welcoming discussion with parents to understand their concerns and explore how we can accommodate their child's needs. Pupils who are withdrawn from collective worship will be safely accommodated and supervised, with meaningful alternative learning activities provided.

9. Monitoring, Evaluation, and Governance

The monitoring and evaluation of collective worship is key to our continuous improvement as a Church of England school. This is overseen by:

- The Headteacher and RE/Worship Lead through observations and planning audits.
- Our pupils, who actively evaluate acts of worship and provide feedback via the School Council.
- Our Governing Body (led by Verity Stewart, Chair of Governors) through reports.
- The Leeds Diocesan Board of Education through advisory visits and formal SIAMS (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools) inspections.