



Potten End Church of England Primary School

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY
Potten End Church of England Primary School

Policy Review

This policy was agreed by the Governing Board on.....12/02/2026

It is due for review on.....Feb 2029.....

Signature Date

Head Teacher

Signature Date

Chair of Governors



Potten End Church of England Primary School

Rooted in faith, we nurture, grow and flourish

Introduction

Collective Worship is an integral part of daily life at Potten End CE Primary School. It is offered to all pupils and usually forms part or the entirety of a school assembly. Collective Worship provides an opportunity for the whole school community to come together, developing a shared sense of belonging and purpose.

As a Church of England school, Collective Worship contributes significantly to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of every child. It is a time to celebrate the worth, value and uniqueness of each person, and to encourage reflection on the deeper questions of life.

All staff share responsibility for implementing this policy.

Aims and Purpose

Collective Worship should be an activity that:

- Is informative, spiritually enriching and underpins children's spiritual and moral education.
- Fosters a sense of fellowship and community.
- Offers opportunities for worship and provides an atmosphere in which those who wish to worship may do so.
- Encourages reflection on personal experiences and life's deepest questions.
- Develops a sense of self-worth, curiosity and openness to questions without fixed answers.
- Introduces children to aspects of religious worship and Christian faith.
- Encourages children to express responses in varied and creative ways.
- Promotes understanding of the role of Christian faith in people's lives, particularly within a church school.
- Inspires awe, wonder and a sense of mystery.
- Encourages creativity, imagination and thoughtful questioning within a Christian framework, while valuing respect for the beliefs of others.

Collective Worship should also:

- Affirm values of ultimate worth, which for many are understood in relation to God.
- Celebrate through music, readings, prayer, art and other expressive forms.
- Enable collective and individual responses through reflection, silence, prayer or statements of belief.



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Our Collective Worship

At Potten End CE Primary School, worship is understood as a special act or occasion that expresses reverence to God. Collective Worship is a shared experience, involving pupils and staff whenever possible. It should be active, reflective, meaningful and a valued part of the school day.

In line with the Education Reform Act (1988), Collective Worship is “wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character.” Worship is rooted in the Bible and Christian tradition, reflecting our identity as a Church of England school. At the same time, we remain sensitive to the diverse beliefs held within our community and aim for worship to be invitational, inclusive and inspiring.

We also acknowledge significant festivals and values from other world faiths where appropriate, recognising common themes of justice, peace, compassion and human dignity.

Organisation of Collective Worship

Collective Worship takes place daily. Worship may be led by the Headteacher, Senior Leadership Team, staff, pupils, the Vicar of Holy Trinity Church Potten End (Revd Ben Brady), or invited visitors. It is regarded as a special moment in the day, and children are expected to behave respectfully.

Weekly pattern of worship:

- Monday: Whole school worship led by the Headteacher
- Tuesday: Whole school worship led by the local vicar or ecumenical partner
- Wednesday: Whole school worship exploring the half-termly Christian value (using *Roots and Fruits*)
- Thursday: Class-led Collective Worship
- Friday: Whole school singing worship

Additional arrangements:

- Visitors from the community sometimes lead worship or highlight charitable work and global issues.
- Parents, carers and friends of the school are welcomed to major services such as Harvest, Remembrance, the Christmas Carol Service and the Leavers' Assembly.
- Governors are welcome to attend worship at any time.
- The Spiritual Leadership pupil team leads worship twice per term.



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Content

Collective Worship reflects the school's half-termly Christian value and draws on biblical stories, Christian teaching, the school vision and significant local or global events. Worship may be adapted in response to particular needs or happenings within the school community.

Records of each act of worship help ensure a balanced breadth of stories, themes, songs and experiences across the year.

Equal Opportunities and Special Educational Needs

Every child is valued equally in Collective Worship. Worship is designed to be accessible to all pupils regardless of gender, ethnicity, physical ability, cognitive need or faith background.

We affirm the Christian belief that every person is created and loved by God and seek to ensure that worship supports the dignity, worth and flourishing of all.

Right of Withdrawal

Although Collective Worship is central to the life of the school, parents retain the legal right to withdraw their child. Parents considering this are encouraged to meet with the Headteacher. Children withdrawn from worship will be supervised, though no alternative worship or religious instruction will be provided.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Collective Worship is regularly monitored to ensure that it:

- Strengthens the Christian vision and distinctiveness of the school
- Provides accessible and meaningful opportunities for spiritual growth
- Is inclusive, invitational and engaging
- Uses varied styles and traditions of worship
- Encourages pupil leadership and participation

Monitoring includes:

- Observations by staff, SLT, RE Lead and governors
- Pupil discussions, especially with the Spiritual Leadership Team
- Review of worship planning and records
- Staff reflections and evaluations
- Reference to SIAMS guidance

Findings inform future development and improvement.



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Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed every three years, or earlier if required through changes in statutory guidance, SIAMS frameworks or school improvement priorities.

SIAMS-Aligned Theological Rationale

Collective Worship at Potten End CE Primary School flows from the Christian conviction that God is Father, Son and Holy Spirit Three Persons in loving unity who creates, redeems and sustains all things. This theological understanding shapes the whole life of our school and provides the foundation for our worship.

We affirm that every person is created in the image of God, is of immeasurable worth and is called into loving relationship with God and one another. Our worship is therefore an act of participating in God's ongoing work of creation, reconciliation and renewal.

Creation: Made in God's image

Worship affirms that each child reflects God's creativity, dignity and purpose. It helps pupils explore what it means to be bearers of God's image and to reflect God's goodness in the world.

The Fall: Recognising brokenness and seeking grace

Worship acknowledges that the world is marked by brokenness and hurt. Through the themes of repentance, forgiveness and compassion, pupils encounter God's mercy and the possibility of restored relationships.

Redemption: Jesus Christ reveals God's love

Through biblical stories, prayer and song, pupils encounter the life and teachings of Jesus Christ: his compassion, his justice, his forgiveness and his call to love God and neighbour. The school's Christian values arise from Christ's own ministry and character.

The Holy Spirit: Transforming presence

Worship recognises the Holy Spirit as the One who breathes life into God's people, inspires creativity and nurtures spiritual growth. Opportunities for silence, stillness, imagination and prayer help pupils become attentive to the Spirit's presence.

The Church: Belonging to the Body of Christ

Worship connects pupils to the wider Christian community. Following the rhythms of the Church year, pupils experience the great narrative of salvation from Advent hope



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to Easter joy and Pentecost mission. Partnership with Holy Trinity Church roots this identity in the life of the local parish.

Vocation and Flourishing: Called by God

Worship nurtures pupils' sense of calling, helping them discover their gifts and identity in God. Rooted in Jesus' promise of life in all its fullness, worship encourages pupils to grow in wisdom, hope and love.

Hope and Restoration: Joining God's work of renewal

Worship inspires pupils to live as people of hope, shaped by God's promise to make all things new. Pupils are encouraged to act with justice, compassion and courage in response to the needs of the world.

Through this theological foundation, Collective Worship becomes a daily participation in God's story formed by the love of the Father, guided by the example of the Son, and inspired by the transforming presence of the Holy Spirit.