Lamberhurst St. Mary's CE Primary School

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Date Written	September 2025
Written By	Mrs. N Mitchell
Date Agreed by Governing Body	October 2025
Headteacher	Mrs. C Vickery-Booth
Chair of Governors	Mr. P Edgesmith
Date of next full review	September 2027

This policy will be reviewed following any lessons learnt and/or updates to national or local guidance and procedures.

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Policy Statement for Collective Worship

'To worship is to quicken the conscience by the holiness of God, to feed the mind with the truth of God, to purge the imagination by the beauty of God, to open the heart to the love of God and to devote the will to the purpose of God' - *William Temple (1881-1894)*

Inspired by the Parable of the Sower, all children and adults in our inclusive Christian school community are able to thrive and flourish. Like seeds on good earth, all are nurtured with supportive loving care.

We strongly believe that our children are our future and we have a responsibility as adults to guide them towards living life in all its fullness so that they may flourish within the supportive arms of our Christian School Values:

Community, Aspiration, Resilience and Kindness



Introduction

Our collective worship policy strengthens and supports the distinctive Christian character of our school, reaffirms our Christian values and celebrates the contribution that each child makes to our community. Worship reflects the variety of traditions found in the Church of England as well as other Christian traditions and recognises and follows the Church's liturgical year. The daily Christian act of worship is central to our ethos and is supported by all staff and governors.

Aims

Collective worship at Lamberhurst St Mary's is in line with the school's Trust Deed and supports the school's Vision Statement, by providing opportunities for students and staff:

- to explore a relationship with God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit
- to reflect on our explicit Christian values
- to develop personal spirituality especially through prayer, and through a range of other experiences
- to be engaged in an exploration of the relevance and application of the Christian faith
- to develop an enquiring mind and express and explore their own views openly and honestly
- to develop a community spirit, a common ethos and shared Christian values
- to foster an awareness of the world around them and a sense of their place within it.

The Anglican Christian Tradition

The following may be described as shared Christian elements of collective worship:

- Using the Bible as a source of knowledge and inspiration for themes and stories
- Observing the cycle of the Church's Year – Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, Pentecost, Harvest and Saints Days
- Learning and saying Christian prayers from a number of sources, for example, the Lord's Prayer and the Grace
- Using simple Anglican liturgy at levels appropriate to students'/pupils' age
- Singing a wide variety of Christian hymns and songs
- Experiencing Christian symbolism in worship and reflecting on their meaning e.g. cross, crucifix, bread and wine and candles
- Using prayer, silence and reflection
- Celebrating the Eucharist/Holy Communion/Agape

Implementation

Collective worship is a legal requirement. In line with the statutory requirement, a Christian act of collective worship is provided for all pupils every day. Teaching staff attend acts of collective worship. Time allocated to collective worship is not part of curriculum time.

At Lamberhurst St Mary's CofE Primary School we attend Worship everyday: Whole School Assembly Worship, Class Assembly Worship, Choir Assembly Worship and Celebration Assembly Worship. Our Class Assembly Worship enables teachers to tailor the worship to the age/stage of their pupils.

St Mary's Church Lay Leaders, HT and Senior Leaders lead whole school Assembly Worship with regular visitors such as Family Trust visiting throughout the year.

The school uses the Diocesan Framework for worship.

The Gathering, Engaging, Responding & Sending structure is used together with varying types of worship experiences e.g. prayer, music, silence, Bible reading, story, dance, and film.

Regular professional development is carried out in school and as part of the Rochester Diocesan support for HT's, Governors and Subject Leaders

Pupil Worship Leaders set up and 'open' all collective worship by lighting our focal candle, leading the Anglican welcome, response and our sending blessing. During the Spring Term each class takes responsibility for leading an Assembly Worship for the school and their parents as a celebration of their learning.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Regular monitoring and evaluation take place using monitoring guidelines provided by Rochester Diocese together with the school's own formats for recording 'Learning and Environment Walks'. The Headteacher and Governor with responsibility for Christian Ethos and Act of Worship will review this policy every two years, and following review, will present suggested amendments to the Full Governing Body for approval.

Everyday Key Stage 2 pupils reflect on each Assembly Worship and record their findings on a reflection sheet see below.

Self-evaluation and Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS)

School Self-evaluation is completed using the SIAMS Self-evaluation criteria in the school's own format. Worship is inspected under Section 48 of the Education Act (SIAMS).

Inclusion and Parental Withdrawal

Parents have the legal right to withdraw their child/children from acts of collective worship. However, as collective worship is central to our ethos our Headteacher requests that parents consider this carefully and invites parents to discuss this decision. As a point of information parents have never withdrawn their children from collective worship during the previous Leadership of the school.

Links with other school policies and practices

This policy links with several school policies, practices including: Child Protection, Equalities, Relationships Education, Health Education (and Sex Education) Policy (RSHE), Religious Education, SEND, and Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Education (SMSC)

Sept 2025

Lamberhurst St. Mary's Spirituality Statement:

Spirituality means different things to different people but in essence it is…….

'How we reflect on our place in the world.'

Through our curriculum we will seek opportunities for spiritual capacity by learning to:

- Value and be thankful for our lives, family and friends and be able to show resilience, aspiration, kindness and community spirit when facing inevitable challenges.
- Appreciate, respect and experience beauty and diversity in the world; reflecting on life's big questions and being prepared to make a stand against something that goes against our values and beliefs
- Be comfortable with stillness and be open to meditation and prayer.



Summary of Doughnut Spirituality

Doughnut spirituality is a way to explain who we are. The outside of the doughnut is like our **mind and body**, the things people can see. The hole in the middle reminds us of our **spiritual core**, the invisible part inside us that gives us meaning, identity, and connection. Just like a doughnut wouldn't be complete without its hole, we wouldn't be complete without our spiritual core.

Pupil's Collective Worship Reflection Sheet

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Pupil Voice: Evaluating the Impact of Collective Worship

Child's Name:
Date:
Theme:

Our School Vision: Parable of the Sower



Our School Values



Type of Worship Assembly:	(Please tick) ☐ ☐ ☐ Whole School Class Church ☐ ☐ Celebration Choir/ Singing Other.....
What was the main theme of the collective worship assembly?	
How do you feel it linked with our school Christian vision and values?	
Do you think this collective worship helped children and adults to flourish (feel good about themselves and life)?	

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At the end of this assembly, do you leave with a positive 'thought' or 'action' for the day, something that changes your behaviour in some way?
Any other comments: