



# St Oswald's CofE Academy Collective Worship Policy

Document date: October 2024



*Together, pursuing life in all its fullness*

<b>Version</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Author</b>	<b>Changes</b>
V1	October 2024	Jayne Geran	Initial Issue

<b>Review frequency</b>	3 years
<b>Review date</b>	October 2027
<b>Ratified by</b>	St Oswald's AGC
<b>Date of ratification</b>	November 2024
<b>Lead/owner</b>	Jayne Geran
<b>Target audience</b>	AGC members, Staff, Parents and Public
<b>Document reference</b>	Collective Worship Policy

## **"I can do all things through him who gives me strength"**

At St Oswald's, we aim to help our pupils, parents and carers and all members of the school community to grow, live and learn together. We aim to nurture a sense of understanding and compassion for all and build courage and strength to live by our school vision and Christian values.

### **Vision and values**

*"I can do all things through him who gives me strength"*

The vision of our academy is based on the Bible verse Philippians 4:13 and is supported by our mission statement:

**Imagine** with all your mind,

**Believe** with all your heart,

**Achieve** with all your might.

As part of our vision, the following core values were chosen by the school community:

Friendship

Co operation

Stewardship

Service

Perseverance

Courage

They guide us in how we live our lives and help us to reach towards our **vision**.

### **Cross of Nails School**

As a community of the Cross of Nails, we value the role faith plays in our life together. We welcome children and families of all faiths and none, whilst rooting our story and communal life together in our Christian values & collective worship. We encourage exploration and discovery of how faith helps us on our journey of living life to the full.

### **Collective Worship at St Oswald's**

In accordance with the law for all schools and academies, at St Oswald's we hold acts of collective worship - which is of a broadly Christian character - reflecting the diverse traditions of Christian belief and marking the cycle of the church's year. We do this either together as a whole school, as a key stage or in class once a week as a part of our classroom worship. We also visit St Matthew & St Oswald's Church for worship led by our reverends.

We strive to ensure that our acts of worship are inspirational, invitational and inclusive for all members of our school community.

*Parents have the right to withdraw their child from an act of collective worship, but we would urge you to discuss this with the headteacher in the first instance.*

### **Aims of Collective Worship**

- To foster a sense of personal 'worship' and collective fellowship, bringing the whole school community together.

- To explicitly link our vision and values to scripture and help staff and children grow on their own spiritual journeys as we focus on those values.
- To create an atmosphere of occasion and reverence where those who wish to worship feel supported and where others are brought into a meaningful encounter in a liminal space with something beyond themselves.
- To encourage in pupils a reflective approach to life.
- To introduce various aspects of religious worship to involve pupils and inspire everyone attending: prayer, singing, music, drama, silent reflection, art, poetry, story.
- To foster deepening understanding of theological concepts and the power symbolism and metaphor e.g. Trinity, Light, Bread et al.
- To provide opportunities to explore sensitively with pupils what is meaningful and significant to them in the face of life's mysteries, including the 'darker' side of life.
- To celebrate all that is good and lovely about life – especially our school community, our friends and families and the natural world
- To foster feelings of gratitude and courageous advocacy.
- To foster an understanding that faith transcends politics and geographical boundaries as we make meaningful links with Christians across our Diocese, our country and the world.

## Organisation and Venue

Acts of worship are led by senior leaders, staff, children, clergy and invited visitors. Collective Worship is not RE, although they can and should complement each other. The dedicated time for Collective Worship is an integral part of our time in school every week.

Whole school worship takes place in our hall which has many other functions throughout the school day. To create an atmosphere of 'special time and sacred space', we give careful attention to:

- having a worship table which has a cloth to match the colours of the liturgical year
- having a visual focus: candles, a cross, a plant, etc.
- having a Bible on display
- having carefully chosen music playing as we enter and leave the hall
- sometimes displaying a relevant picture, phrase or question on the screen to direct thinking and encourage reflection whilst waiting for worship to begin
- on occasions, having everyone entering and singing one of our well-known worship songs
- expecting that everyone (children and adults alike) enters the hall in an intentionally reflective manner.
- minimising interruptions from people walking through the hall during worship time.

These are also the guiding principles for teachers leading their own class worship.

We have a structure to worship which is:

- Welcome and invitation to gather – candles
- Theme – Theologically rooted with reference to a biblical text
- Links to the world today
- Opportunity for reflection
- Opportunity to pray

Worship themes are mapped out alongside the liturgical calendar, but the school responds to local and national focuses and issues where relevant. Worship in sequence includes opportunities for worship related to the school's Christian values. We work closely with St Matthew & St Oswald's Church, to plan a thoughtful, reflective curriculum that encompasses our vision as a school and a community.

### **Our Weekly Worship**

Further opportunities to lead collective worship come through our Worship Team. Occasionally our worship takes place in Church at times of major festivals in the Christian calendar - Harvest, Christmas, Easter. Every half term, there will be visitors who will lead on worship. This includes our local minister, Open the Book, Rugby Youth for Christ.

Our normal weekly pattern of worship is:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Celebration Worship / Open the Book	In class worship	Singing Worship	Whole school worship	Key Stage worship: In hall / class alternate weeks

### **Arrangements for Recording, Monitoring and Evaluating Collective Worship**

Each class will contribute to a collective worship floor book where collective worship is recorded. The recording focuses on children's reflections and can include statements of reflection, prayer and links to everyday life.

Collective worship is monitored regularly through pupil voice. From this, recommendations are made on how to improve collective worship.