ST.ANNE'S COPP CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL, GREAT ECCLESTON

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY



"Let us love, not in word, but in truth and action." (1 John 3:18)

SEPTEMBER 2026

Approved by GB: September 2026
Next review due: November 2027

In building solid foundations for every unique individual and putting God's love at the centre of all we do, our children learn to embrace our diverse world. We encourage our children to learn universally in order to understand our heritage and roots as a village, town, region and nation. Through strong community links, our children grow in compassion and understanding, promote justice and possess commitment and aspire to make a positive difference. We offer an ambitious curriculum that ignites curiosity along with high personal expectations that fosters resilience and which enables them to flourish. Our children are easily distinguished by the courage they show when making brave choices and understand the importance of becoming the very best versions of themselves.

The provision of Collective Worship conforms to the Blackburn Diocese Policy. Our school is a Voluntary Aided Church of England School where collective worship is in conformity with the rites, practices and doctrines of the Church of England as laid down in the Trust Deed, sealed on 6th February 1866. Collective Worship in church schools is governed by both the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 as well as by the Trust Deed of the School. The Collective Worship provided by the school is in accordance with the Trust Deed.

Collective worship contributes to our Mission Statement and the aims and ethos of the school and, therefore, to the Christian education we provide. It also contributes to the celebration and exploration of the values of our school. It is at the centre of our school life and is seen as an essential part of all pupils' education.

Although we are a Church of England school, forms of worship within our denominations differ and these differences enable us to provide a varied range of approaches to worship which we believe underpins our Christian ethos.

Through a variety of approaches, we expect that pupils will be introduced to the central place of the Bible as the Word of God and our primary source of knowledge about God and Jesus, and a source of inspiration and guidance and aspects of the Christian faith and helped to explore them. These will include:

- the nature of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit
- the nature of human beings as children of God and part of his creation
- Jesus as the Son of God, who through his life, death and Resurrection broke the power of evil and restored humanity's relationship with God.
- the core Christian values
- the central place of the Bible as a source of knowledge about God and Jesus as a source of inspiration and guidance
- the importance of prayer
- the need for private thoughts and reflections
- the central symbols of Christianity
- the cycle of the church year.

Worship in school, while reflecting our denomination, will take into account the levels of development of the pupils in our care. The worship and prayer life of the school is not limited to the legally required daily acts of worship. Opportunities will be taken to use prayer and time for quiet thought in the curriculum generally; this will include prayer before lunch and at the end of the school day.

Close links are maintained with the Parish Church of St. Anne's and Elswick United Reformed Church.
St. Anne's Church is used for services when celebrating different events of the church year. This varies each year but regularly includes Harvest, Christmas, Mothering Sunday and Easter.

Organisation of Collective Worship

Monday	9am	Whole school worship led by Governor Sharon Martin
Tuesday	9am	Whole school worship led by Andrea Loughran
Wednesday	9am	Class worships across school
Thursday	9am	Whole school led by Staff (Picture News / British Values)
Friday	9am	Celebration worship led by Andrea Loughran (the last Friday in the term is reserved for a special Values assembly)

The staff will contribute to the delivery of the daily act of worship. During collective worship we will, through the values and beliefs proclaimed in hymns, prayers and story and by the atmosphere created, stimulate and reinforce the Christian values which the school upholds, inform its whole curriculum and set the tone of its pastoral relationships.

Daily Worship will last approximately 20 minutes. Children are encouraged to enter and leave in a quiet and reflective manner. St. Anne's Copp School places such importance on worship that all staff and pupils are expected to attend. Whenever possible, no pupil will be withdrawn for extra tuition.

Approaches to worship will be as varied as possible - adult and pupil led, storytelling, music, drama, visual aids, role-play etc and children/adults will be consulted about the content/style of the worship on regular basis. We follow a Values cycle in line with Roots and Fruits and celebrate / recognise National and International events when appropriate.

Collective Worship at St. Anne's Copp will:

- contribute to the Statement of Intent and aims of the school;
- create an environment in which children and adults have the opportunity to worship;
- develop knowledge and understanding of the Christian faith;
- develop links with the local Church;
- worship God through Jesus;
- Make explicit links to God's Big Story
- focus on key verses and stories from the Bible;
- contribute to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural understanding and development of pupils;
- offer time for reflection and prayer.

Content will include:

- sharing feelings ;
- expressing concern for others;
- looking at the world, developing awe and wonder and giving thanks to God;
- exploring common values - how to treat others, self-discipline, good and evil;
- topical events - continuing issues such as starvation, peace and conflict;
- celebrating the curriculum - showing off learning;
- sharing and celebrating pupil achievements - in and outside school;
- stories, music, poetry, videos;
- Christian faith and history (including areas of RE Syllabus);
- opportunities to learn about the variety of faiths and cultures;
- prayer, hymns, time for reflection;
- direct involvement from the pupils.

Staff are provided with an outline of themes for worship as guidance and help where necessary rather than clearly defined topics. They frequently refer to the whole school Christian values for the particular half term if leading worship.

A variety of music will be played during this time. This music is based on the half termly theme and Christian values and is intended to provoke thought as the children wait for worship to begin.

A cloth, candle and a Bible will be placed on the table to symbolize that this is a time for worship and, where appropriate, a candle will be lit. Pupils are encouraged to be engaged in worship but also to have a time for reflection.

School has a Year 6 Christian Ambassador who forms part of the Junior Leadership Team. The Values Group is formed from children from Y1 to Y6 and their role includes:

- evaluating worship;
- monitoring worship areas;
- monitoring reflection areas;
- talking to other children about Christian values.

The display board in the hall is used to enhance the whole school values as well as half-termly Christian values. These themes and values are also displayed in each classroom and around the school. Parents are kept informed about Christian values and worship through the whole school post on our Class Dojo site, the school website, the newsletter, the information board in the entrance and through half termly class communication. Classes display the focus Christian value for the half term but other values are displayed in class/around school and discussed, as appropriate.

CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

At our school, we recognise and celebrate the rich diversity of cultures, beliefs, traditions and experiences that shape modern Britain. Children come from a range of backgrounds and communities, influenced by factors such as family life, faith, heritage, language, locality, interests and experiences. We believe that understanding and valuing this diversity is essential in preparing pupils to become respectful, informed and responsible citizens.

Through Collective Worship, Religious Education and the wider curriculum, we provide opportunities for children to learn about and appreciate different cultures, faiths and ways of life. This includes exploring:

- their own local community and its heritage;
- the diverse cultures and traditions found across the United Kingdom;
- the beliefs, customs and lifestyles of people around the world.

As a Church of England school, Christianity remains the foundation of our ethos and collective worship. At the same time, we actively promote understanding of other faiths and worldviews, helping children to recognise both the uniqueness of different traditions and the values they share.
Through our teaching and worship, we foster the British Values of **mutual respect**, **tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs**, **individual liberty**, **democracy** and the **rule of law**. We encourage pupils to value diversity, listen respectfully to others, appreciate different perspectives and contribute positively to society.
By exploring themes such as love, peace, justice, compassion and service, we help children understand that these values are central to Christian teaching and are also reflected across many faiths and communities. In doing so, we seek to nurture pupils who are confident in their own identity, respectful of others and equipped to thrive in a diverse and interconnected world.

Parents may withdraw their children from collective worship and this provision and its limitations are indicated in the school brochure - '*Parents have the right to withdraw their children from Religious Education and should approach the Headteacher if this is their wish. However, the teachings of the Gospel enter all aspects of the school. As a result, withdrawal of pupils from formal Religious Education or worship would not isolate them from the Anglican religious teaching which the school gives*.'

- It is hoped that any complaint will be resolved informally by the Headteacher, in consultation with the Governors, and possibly with advice from the Diocese of Blackburn. However, if the complaint is not

satisfactorily resolved, then formal procedures come into play and the matter will be adjudicated by a specially constituted sub-committee of the Diocesan Board of Education acting on behalf of the Bishop will be regularly planned for editing and re-drafting within English and other lessons.