



Barton Church of England (VA) Primary School



Matthew 7:12 Do to others whatever you would like them to do to you

Collective Worship Policy

Headteacher Date: _____

Chair of governors Date: _____

Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth.

Worship the Lord with gladness; come before him with joyful songs.

Know that the Lord is God. It is He, who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name.

Psalm 100: 1-4

Last reviewed: November 2025

Our Vision and the importance of Collective Worship

At Barton our vision is to engage and inspire pupils to become creative and independent thinkers, evidencing a love for learning and a thirst for knowledge. We aspire to promote the skills needed to persevere with learning challenges and the curiosity to enquire further. Our Christian ethos and school values focus on developing children's moral, spiritual, social and cultural understanding so that they can achieve their full potential. These are woven, like a golden thread, into every aspect of school life.

With God's help, our Christian vision binds us together from the moment of arrival at our school, until the day of departure. All members of the Barton School community are bathed in and supported by our Christian ethos: implicitly in our core values and personal relationships; explicitly in the Religious and Worldviews Education, Collective Worship, PSHE and Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development opportunities specifically and our whole curriculum more widely.

We base this vision on the parable of The Sower (Matthew 13 Vs 1-23) which supports us to make good choices so that we can grow and flourish in our learning and in our relationships.

Collective Worship is the unique heartbeat of our church school and is offered as part of a wider opportunity for pupils and adults to encounter faith by engaging in conversations about God, both as individuals and together. The core of our worship signals the life, energy and Christian spirit of the school. Worship is a time to breathe, a time when all can come together to find a space, silence and quietness to reflect, as in a mirror, their own spirituality, values and, as through a window, their place in the world. Just as breathing is vitally important to life, worship is a significant and sacred time in the life of our school, ensuring the time is valued to allow all to breathe through our togetherness.

Collective Worship at Barton Church of England Primary School

At Barton CofE (VA) Primary School, we adhere to our statutory duty by providing 20 minutes of Collective Worship a day. At Barton our act of daily Collective Worship is of a broadly Christian character whilst also representing other faiths and cultures.

We regard Collective Worship as an essential part of our life as a community church school and a time when we can come together to worship, grow in our understanding of the trinity, the teachings of

Jesus and the nature and content of the Bible. It offers us the chance to explore and ask questions about the big issues of human existence in a prayerful, reflective and inclusive environment, developing the key values and virtues that are at the core of our Christian ethos. It is a time to welcome all, irrespective of their faith journey, to engage in choral worship, prayer and silence, to experience moments of stillness, awe and wonder in a spirit of fellowship and belonging. We embrace the idea of the 'warm fire and open door' approach, respecting the faith positions of all within our community, whilst offering the opportunity to learn about Christianity and to draw as close to it as participants feel comfortable.

This policy outlines how the school implements Collective Worship within our daily routines, including the aims of Collective Worship and how pupils can be withdrawn.

Legal framework

This policy has due regard to all relevant legislation and statutory guidance including, but not limited to, the following:

- The School Standards and Framework Act 1998
- The Education Reform Act 1988
- The Education Act 1993
- DfE (1994) 'Religious Education and Collective Worship'

This policy operates in conjunction with the following school policies:

- RWE Policy
- Special Educational Needs & Disabilities (SEND) Policy
- Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) Education Policy

Legal Requirement for Collective Worship of a Church School

All schools must provide a daily act of Collective Worship for all pupils. The aim of Collective Worship is to develop pupils religiously, socially, morally, spiritually and culturally.

There are three main legal requirements for Collective Worship required to promote British Values as part of SMSC in the Ofsted framework.

Arrangements for Collective Worship in a Voluntary Aided School are the responsibility of the

governors in consultation with the Head teacher.

- Collective Worship in a church school should be carried out in accordance with the school's founding Trust Deed, and in accordance with the statutory instrument of Government for Voluntary Aided Schools.
- The act of worship can take place at any time of the school day and in any regular school grouping e.g., whole school, key stage or classes.
- A statement must be shared with parents which makes it clear that they may withdraw their children from Collective Worship. This statement can be found in this policy.

In the event that a child is withdrawn, the school must provide adequate supervision to ensure their safety.

It is important to note that worship in our school is more than just a legal requirement; it is an integral part of school life and central to our school vision.

Definition of Collective Worship: Inclusive Invitational Inspiring

DfE (1994) 'Religious Education and Collective Worship' sets out as the central aim for the school curriculum that it should promote the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils and of society, and prepare pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life. Collective Worship in Barton makes a significant contribution to meeting this aim.

For the purpose of this policy, 'Collective Worship' can be defined as an act of gathering together which is additional to, and separate from, ordinary school activities, enabling all members of the school community to take part in worship, irrespective of their faith. It is *'more than a daily 'awe and wonder' moment. It is the unique heartbeat of the school and is offered as part of a wider opportunity for pupils and adults to encounter faith by engaging in conversations about God, both as individuals and together.'*

Aims and objectives of Barton Collective Worship:

Our Collective Worship:

- Is inclusive, Invitational and Inspiring
- Reinforces and express the school's vision
- Reflects on moral values such as compassion, gratitude, justice, humility, forgiveness and reconciliation; and develop virtues such as resilience, determination and creativity that develop character and contribute to academic progress.
- Helps pupils and adults to appreciate the relevance of faith in today's world by encountering the teachings of Jesus and the Bible and developing understanding of the Christian belief in the trinitarian nature of God.
- Offers the opportunity, without compulsion, to all pupils and adults to grow spiritually through experiences of prayer, stillness, worship and reflection.
- Enables all pupils and adults to appreciate that Christians worship in different ways, for example using music, silence, story, prayer, reflection, as well as through the varied liturgical and other traditions of Anglican worship, festivals and, where appropriate, the Eucharist.
- Enables pupils to engage in the planning, leading and evaluation of Collective Worship in ways that lead to improving practice.

Collective Worship in Barton includes opportunities to:

- Engage in an act of community
- Express praise and thanksgiving to God
- Be still and reflect
- Explore the big questions of life and respond to national events
- Foster respect and deepen spiritual awareness
- Reflect on the character of God and on the teachings of Christ
- Affirm Christian values and attitudes
- Share each other's joys and challenges
- Experience and respond to Anglican traditions and practices
- Celebrate special times in the Christian calendar

Aims of collective worship: COMMUNITY

Collective Worship in Barton:

- provides the whole school community with an opportunity to worship
- affords the community space to pray and reflect upon what it is to be human
- includes aspects of church worship that reflect the school's Anglican status
demonstrates to children the different elements of church worship
- reaffirms, strengthens and develops key Christian moral values such as compassion, gratitude, justice, humility, forgiveness and reconciliation as well as virtues such as resilience, determination and creativity
- enables pupils to engage in discussions about faith, reflecting upon their own spiritual journey
- offers opportunities to read and reflect upon the nature of God, the Holy Spirit and Jesus
- enables pupils to become familiar with the teachings of Jesus through hearing and reflecting upon Bible stories
- promotes a common church school ethos with shared values
- seeks to provide opportunities for spiritual, social and moral development that is characterised by feelings such as awe, wonder, being uplifted, elation, appreciation, gratitude, respect, and reverence
- reflects the school's nature as an inclusive community
- gives pupils and adults space and time to reflect on spirituality
- provides an opportunity to celebrate Christian festivals and mark special times in the life of the school, local, national and global communities
- provides an opportunity for pupils to become acquainted with people from the local and wider community, including local churches
- is structured around the development of a theme or value

Aims of Collective Worship: PERSONAL

Collective Worship in Barton:

- celebrates the uniqueness of each member of the school community
- helps pupils discover their place in the world by exploring their own beliefs and faith journey
- celebrates gifts, talents and achievements
- heightens an awareness of ultimate questions and provides the opportunity to be still and to reflect upon these
- develops the vocabulary of worship through prayers and spiritual words and meanings
- provides an opportunity to engage with the Anglican cycle of worship and the worship of the local church community
- encourages pupils and staff who wish to do so to take an active role in leading Collective Worship in the school
- nurtures and encourages respect and care for God's created world by promoting a positive attitude to environmental issues locally, nationally and globally
- develops an awareness of their community and the spirit of helping others as courageous advocates

Organisation and planning

The school implements collective worship in line with advice given by the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE).

In our Voluntary Aided school, all Collective Worship is broadly of a Christian character and takes into account the practices and teachings of the Church of England. We normally base our worship on the of Christ and traditions of the Christian Church. However, we conduct them in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs or non-beliefs of all members of the school.

The headteacher is responsible for creating the agenda for Collective Worship in discussion with the governing board.

The act of worship will be held for approx. 20 minutes daily.

Collective Worship at Barton Church of England Primary School is organised as follows:

- **Monday:** Whole School, centred round a focus value usually led by the Headteacher
- **Tuesday:** Choral worship, led by Headteacher
- **Wednesday:** Whole school, led by a member of the local clergy or the headteacher either in the school hall or in St. Peter's Church.
- **Thursday:** Class based developing the theme or value introduced in the Monday CW
- **Friday:** Whole school celebration, welcoming family and friends from the wider community.

Sequence of worship

Gathering

- Collective Worship Leaders (CWL) greet pupils as they enter the worship space.
- Inspiring music, sometimes with actions, sets the calm and reverential atmosphere.
- The worship table is prepared by CWL with a candle, Bible and cross, sharing the purpose of each item with those gathered using a call and response routine.
- The candle will be lit to signify the beginning of worship.
- Worship lead, supported by CWL begins the worship with a biblical welcome and response that will be changed each half term.
- All those gathered wish each other 'peace' saying "Peace be with you... [name]... and I hope you have a lovely day".

Engaging

- A theme, big question, moral value or virtue is explored through Bible stories, verses, or another visual stimulus.
- Role play, visual storytelling and discussion as well as visitors from outside the immediate school community may feature in the exploration of the main aim of each worship episode.

Responding

- Choral worship linked to the theme of the Collective Worship will be led by CWL. Pupils will be encouraged to stand and engage fully in the singing showing reverence and respect.
- An opportunity to engage with a relevant prayer, for example, the school prayer, The Lord's Prayer or a prayer written by the CWLs will provide a moment of reflective contemplation. The adult Collective Worship lead may say:

I invite you to find that quiet place inside of you, find that still place and if you would like to join in with our school prayer then please do so. If you choose to you may reflect, sit quietly and think your own quiet thoughts.

- Those who are of different or no faith will be given an important question or thought to focus upon, linked to the main theme and aim of the worship.

Sending

- The response question, thought or Bible passage will remain visible for those who leave the worship space last to enable them to continue to reflect upon it.
- The entrance music will be played and CWL will send pupils back to class or on to the next activity wishing them well “have a good day”.
- All pupils and staff will be expected to wait and leave in a calm and reverential manner.

During Collective Worship, there will be a variety of elements to encourage spiritual growth including: celebration, silence, reflection, contemplation, meditation, prayer, song, symbols, imagery, and readings from the Bible and other carefully chosen stories connected with our school values.

We take the half termly themes of our Collective Worship from key values of the Christian Faith – Love, Generosity, Compassion, Courage, Forgiveness, Friendship, Respect, Thankfulness, Trust, Perseverance, Justice, Service, Truthfulness, Wisdom, Dignity, Community, Hope, Joy, Peace (Roots and Fruits - Imaginor)

Connections with other local churches

The Anglican Church sees itself as part of a much wider church and promotes ecumenism. Accordingly, we promote close links with other local churches and Christian organisations such as GENR8, CSOC and we welcome their clergy and leaders as regular contributors to acts of Collective Worship. We recognise that, while some of our pupils and families belong to Anglican churches, many worship regularly at churches of other Christian denominations and others come from different faith backgrounds or none. We endeavour to ensure that everyone feels comfortable and accepted in worship without any pressure to participate inappropriately or to believe.

Inclusion

We are committed to equality of opportunity regardless of race, gender, cultural background, ability or any physical or sensory disability. We therefore aim to make Collective Worship accessible to all and accommodate ourselves to individual needs when appropriate.

The school will arrange for learning mentors to assist pupils with SEND if the need arises, in accordance with the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Policy.

Monitoring and Review

It is the role of our Foundation Governors to support and monitor the Collective Worship policy, planning and practice of Collective Worship on a regular basis. Planning is regularly evaluated and we welcome school governors to our Collective Worship at any time.

There are opportunities for children to feedback on the Collective Worship theme and children are also asked about their thoughts on Collective Worship through a questionnaire, and these evaluations are used to inform planning and practice.

Inspection of Collective Worship is part of the Church of England Schools SIAMS Inspection process. As a Church of England (VA) school we are supported by the Ely Diocesan Authority.

Right to Withdraw

Parents have the right to withdraw their child from Collective Worship and are not required to provide a reason for doing so.

Parents will be encouraged to discuss their decision with the headteacher following a request of withdrawal in terms of:

- The elements of worship in which the parent would object to the pupil taking part in.
- The practical implications of their withdrawal.

Alternative arrangements will be put in place for pupils who are withdrawn from Collective Worship.

Review of policy

This policy will be reviewed on an annual basis by the headteacher in agreement with the governing board.

This policy will be evaluated in accordance with feedback from questionnaires and class discussions.

Any changes made to this policy and the Collective Worship programme will be communicated to all members of staff.

The scheduled review date for this policy is September 2025

Our Values and our Barton Bs

Our core values of **Love**, **Respect** and **Integrity** are complemented by Honesty, Compassion, Enthusiasm, Determination and Teamwork.

RESPECT



INTEGRITY

Barton Bs

Be Safe

Be Respectful

Be Learners