




SHERSTON C OF E

PRIMARY SCHOOL



Collective Worship

Date Approved	Review Date	Signed
Nov 2025	Nov 2026	

Year	Amendments (in Yellow)
2023	Incorporation of vision Addition to themes of worship Planning update
2024	No changes required
2025	No changes required



Rationale

The heart of our collective worship beats with the rhythm of 'Learning, Caring and Achieving Together.' At Sherston C of E Primary, we embrace a vision that transcends the boundaries of the classroom, fostering a nurturing environment where each child is encouraged to thrive academically, emotionally, and spiritually. Our collective worship policy is woven with the threads of unity and compassion, guiding our daily gatherings to instil values that echo the essence of togetherness. As we embark on this journey of shared learning, mutual care, and collective achievement, we aim to create a sacred space where our students can grow not only as individuals but as integral members of a compassionate and supportive community.

We expect all children to be present so that they form an active learning community. We include a clear teaching element, drawing on the input of the Ministry Team and other associated members of the Gauzebrook Group.

Statement of Purpose

The Education Reform Act 1988 states that collective worship must be on a daily basis and that it reflects the broad traditions of Christian belief without being distinctive of any particular denomination. However, this does not exclude the use of material from different faiths as long as a 'broadly Christian' character predominates over a school term.

Since Sherston School is a Church of England School, acts of worship are in the broad tradition of Anglicanism according to the Trust deed. They are appropriate to the age, aptitude and family background of the children concerned.

Themes of Collective Worship

- To foster a sense of fellowship, bringing pupils together
- To create an atmosphere where those who wish to worship may do so
- To encourage in pupils a reflective approach to life
- To increase sensitivity towards, and awareness of the search for meaning in the face of life's mysteries
- To introduce pupils to various aspects (prayer, hymn, drama, art) of religious worship in an open and honest way
- To further embed the school's vision

Spiritual Development

Our aims for Spiritual Development:

- To celebrate all that is good and lovely about life, especially our school, our local community and our beautiful surroundings.
- To provide opportunities for pupils to share what is meaningful and significant to them, including the 'darker' side to life.
- To give time for silent reflection and exploration of inner space.
- To illustrate forms of worship that others have found helpful in their spiritual development e.g. Silent contemplation, dance and singing.
- To provide an environment that is conducive to worship and adequately resourced (literature, visual aids, music, artefacts and guest speakers).
- To invite a response from the children which is appropriate to the occasion.



Planning

In planning Worship regard is given to:

- Observing the cycle of the church's year and selecting themes appropriate to this
- How worship reflects the Anglican heritage
- Using the Bible as a source book for inspiration and learning
- Reflecting upon Christian symbols and their use in worship e.g. cross, candle
- Celebrating the major Christian festivals
- Focussing on particular events in the Christian calendar, e.g. Advent & Lent
- The termly school value

When planning collective worship, leads complete the overview document to ensure even coverage and consistent links to Bible stories/verses

Implementation

Collective worship, at all times, links back to our school vision 'Learning, Caring and Achieving Together'. To further embed this, each worship has a particular link to the vision:

Day	Worship	Focus	Lead
Monday	Togetherness	Elements of the school vision linking to particular theme	Headteacher
Tuesday	Caring	Golden Book linked to termly value	SLT
Wednesday	Learning	Termly value & Bible story	Gauzebrook Ministry team
Thursday	Singing	Whole school hymn practice	Music Lead
Friday	Achievement	Celebrating the achievements of children in the week	Headteacher

Assemblies are also led by:

- The children & class teachers;
- Other church members and visitors
- Charity groups and representatives
- Members of the local community

Class worship is led by the class teachers and structured around changing 'Big Questions' (eg 'Who am I?' 'Where is God?') based on:

- the value being taught that term;
- appropriate themes in the Church calendar;
- special events in the school year.

Services are also held in Church of the Holy Cross in Sherston throughout the year. These are usually led by the pupils and a member of the clergy. Parents are invited, and the services are held to celebrate festivals, normally Harvest, Christmas and Easter.



Rights of Withdrawal

Teachers and Headteachers have the right to withdraw from collective worship on the grounds of religious belief. Parents may also withdraw their children wholly or partly from collective worship. The school will provide alternative facilities should parents wish to exercise this right.

Methodology

Sherston's assembly policy is that assemblies take a variety of forms:

- Whole school led by the Headteacher or a member of the teaching staff.
- Class led, celebrating work produced, with the whole school and parents.
- Sharing - individual children share their successes both social and academic with the whole school.
- Led by visitors, e.g. The Vicar and visitors from other organisations, community members (Open the Book) etc.
- Themed assemblies linked to the School's Values

Approach

Assemblies are always a form of collective worship however they may also include:

1. General religious education, particularly Christian celebrations
2. Musical education - singing, instrument playing, listening
3. Corporate prayer
4. Announcements
5. Celebrations of children's work
6. Sharing of stories, thoughts.
7. Enjoyment of visitor's skills or lifestyles

Recording and Monitoring

All collective acts of Worship are planned by the collective worship leader and the clergy. Foundation governors monitor a sample of assemblies a minimum of twice a year and write up their findings. These are reviewed by the Headteacher and foundation and governors on a regular basis.