



Harting C of E Primary School

Collective Worship Policy

Reviewers: Full Governing Body

Date Last Reviewed: May 2026

Date Next Review: May 2027

Policy Statement for Collective Worship

Harting Vision Statement

At Harting, guided by our Christian values, we enable all to flourish and live life in all its fullness by:

- Motivation and inspiring our community's love of learning
- Fostering a curiosity and respect of the world around us
- Developing resilient and enthusiastic lifelong learners
- Aiming to equip everyone with the skills and confidence to continue their individual journeys of discovery.

Through carefully planned provision and inclusive practice, we aim to support every child to flourish in all that they do. We share a strong commitment to developing the whole child, placing equal importance on personal and social development alongside academic progress and attainment.

Introduction

At Harting Church of England Primary School collective worship strengthens and supports the Christian ethos and identity of our school and reaffirms our vision and Christian values.

With our vision at the heart of all that we do, collective worship supports and challenges every member of our community to flourish, reflect, and grow together.

Our worship reflects the variety of traditions found within the Church of England and our parish and follows the Christian liturgical year. The daily act of worship is at the heart of our school and is supported by all staff and governors. It makes an important contribution to the overall spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of our school and celebrates the central role that each person has to play within our school community.

Aims

Our collective worship is planned:

- to be inspiring, inclusive, invitational and engaging, so that all participants are able to talk about the difference worship makes to their relationships and the life of the school
- around Biblical texts and Christian teaching
- to deepen understanding of our Christian values
- with a strong focus on God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit, enabling each one of us to embark on an understanding of the Trinity
- to deepen our understanding of Anglican and other Christian traditions found in the UK and worldwide
- to challenge everyone, regardless of background to understand and embark on their own spiritual journey

- to develop an appreciation and understanding of the value of prayer, reflection and stillness
- to develop a sense of the spiritual, creating opportunities to wonder and respond to something beyond the everyday
- to praise, celebrate and give thanks
- to acknowledge significant achievements and mark significant occasions within the school, local and international community

Legal Requirements

We meet legal requirements by providing a daily act of collective worship which is in line with our Trust Deed and Anglican foundation. The governing Body holds responsibility for ensuring that the legal requirements for worship are met and that all pupils engage each day in a meaningful act of Christian worship. Our daily worship can be whole school worship, key stage, class or group worship.

Withdrawal from Collective Worship

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from acts of worship. We comply with any request from a parent to withdraw their child. However, in view of the Christian ethos and distinctive Christian character of our school, we hope that all children admitted will participate in collective worship, and that anyone wishing to withdraw their child will discuss this with the headteacher before making their decision.* Any queries about withdrawal from collective worship should be directed to the collective worship co-ordinator in the first instance and thereafter to the Headteacher. Following a conversation with the Headteacher parents should confirm this request in writing.

We acknowledge that teachers also have the right to withdraw from collective worship. However, as a church school all members of staff are asked to support the Christian ethos of the school and therefore we expect teaching staff to attend worship. Any member of staff wishing to withdraw from worship should discuss their wishes with the Headteacher. Should a member of staff still seek to withdraw following this discussion they should provide written notice to the Headteacher and governing board.

Inclusion and Equal Opportunities

At Harting School, collective worship reflects our Christian foundation while being fully inclusive and respectful of the diverse backgrounds, beliefs, and experiences within our school community. Collective worship is planned and delivered in a way that ensures all pupils feel valued, safe, and able to participate meaningfully, regardless of faith, belief, gender, culture, ability, or additional needs.

In line with the school's Inclusion Policy and Equal Opportunities Policy, we promote equality, respect, and mutual understanding through worship. Themes and content are carefully chosen to reflect shared human values such as kindness, hope, forgiveness, and respect,

enabling all pupils to engage thoughtfully, whether from a faith perspective or through personal reflection.

Provision is made to support accessibility for all pupils, including adaptations for those with special educational needs or disabilities, and sensitivity to those of different faiths or of no faith. Families retain the right to withdraw their child from collective worship, and alternative arrangements will be made in accordance with statutory guidance.

Through this inclusive approach, collective worship supports the spiritual, moral, social, and cultural development of every child, fostering a sense of belonging and encouraging everyone to flourish within a diverse and caring community.

Pattern of Worship

Our pattern of worship is as follows

DAY	TIME	LEADERSHIP
Monday	09:00 – 09:15	Headteacher led collective worship /Assembly
Tuesday	15:00 – 15:15	Teacher led collective worship this is either in class or as a whole school.
Wednesday	15:00 – 15:15	Singing Assembly
Thursday	15:00 – 15:15	Weekly Visit from St Mary and St Gabriel Church leading value based collective worship.
Friday	15:00 – 15:15	Celebration Assembly with act of collective worship

Planning Collective Worship

Specific time is set aside for worship and we differentiate acts of collective worship from other assembly activities. We mark this special time with the following acts:

Structure of collective worship

1. Gathering and Welcome
 - Gathering Invitation, Lighting a Candle
2. Word (Bible Stories, Drama, Music, Film)
 - We encounter Jesus and the stories of the Bible.
3. Responding to the word (Reflecting on our own lives)
 - We respond to what we have heard and seen.
4. Sending out
 - Song ,Prayer, Sending out words

Individuals leading worship are expected to plan the act of worship with the same degree of thoroughness as other planning. We base our acts of worship around a structure of gathering, engaging, responding and sending.

Our worship themes follow the liturgical calendar and are planned by our collective worship coordinator, Mr Tidey in collaboration with Canon Simon Holland.

Staff and Community Involvement in Worship

All staff are are involved in our worship on a regular basis and enrich our worship.

We regularly invite visitors to participate in and lead our worship. We liaise with them beforehand so that they are clear about the aims of our collective worship and the need to avoid any proselytising. Attempts to persuade participants to adopt particular religious or non-religious beliefs are not appropriate. In general, the Headteacher is consulted before a visiting speaker is confirmed.

Pupil Involvement in Worship

Pupils play an active part in planning and leading worship on a regular basis.

Collective Worship Co-ordinator

Collective worship is coordinated by Mr Tidey. The collective worship co-ordinator is responsible for long term planning of worship, leading acts of worship, supporting staff and pupils who are planning and leading worship, monitoring the quality of worship and evaluating its impact across the school community. The collective worship co-ordinator is responsible for liaising with Canon Simon Holland from St Mary and St Gabriel Church and Linda Hugget - Minister from Harting Congregational Church.

Monitoring and Evaluation of Worship

We regularly evaluate our acts of collective worship and the impact they have on the school and our wider community. Everyone who leads worship is asked to evaluate continuously, reflecting on how they can improve and develop their practice. We gather the voice of our pupils through our Pupil Worship Council. This feedback directly impacts future planning of acts of worship.

The impact of our collective worship is independently inspected by law under Section 48 of the Education Act 2005.

This policy has been adopted by the Governors in consultation with the senior leaders, the CW leader and teaching staff.