Oxford Diocesan Schools Trust
St Mary's Convent
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Central:	Trust-wide policy, applicable at trust and school levels. Schools may not make any changes or adaptations

Collective Worship Statement Church of England Schools

Approved by:	**Ethos & Governance Committee**
Date:	**June 2026**
Next review date:	**31 July 2029**

Adopted by school:	**St John's CE primary School**
Date:	**September 2026**

Introduction

At our school collective worship strengthens and supports the Christian ethos and identity of our school and reaffirms our vision and Christian values. Our worship reflects the variety of traditions found within the Church of England 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 LGB members. 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 an understanding of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit
- 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

*Collective worship in a church school should be invitational and an experience that does not offend the integrity of the non-religious or those of different faiths. It does not pre-suppose shared beliefs.

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 Local Governing Body holds responsibility for ensuring that the legal requirements for worship are met and that all pupils are offered 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 without delay. The 'religious grounds' for withdrawal do not have to be justified or explained by parents. Should children be withdrawn, the school will provide adequate supervision to ensure their safety. Children should not be withdrawn from Collective Worship for other purposes (e.g. reading, music lessons)

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 anticipate that teaching staff will attend worship. Collective worship cannot be used as part of a teacher's planning, preparation and assessment (PPA) time. Any member of staff wishing to withdraw from worship should discuss their wishes with the headteacher.

Visitor Involvement in Worship

Our local incumbent, members of the parish team, and other visitors may be involved in our worship on a regular basis and enrich our worship.

We 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, our school values and the danger of perceived 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.

Monitoring and Evaluation of Worship

We evaluate our acts of collective worship and the impact they have on the school and our wider community. This involves monitoring by school leaders, staff, pupils and LGB members and takes place both informally and formally. Everyone who leads worship is asked to evaluate continuously, reflecting on how they can improve and develop their practice. We welcome the views of all those who participate in our worship, including parents and visitors. These views and any suggestions play an integral part in developing the spiritual growth of our school community.

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

This statement should be reviewed regularly in line with the school's procedures, at least every three years.

A school may wish to attach the long-term collective worship plan and collective worship action plan as appendices to their policy.