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Lichfield Diocesan Board of Education

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

Mid-Trent Multi Academy Trust

Collective Worship Policy

September 2026

St Andrew's CE Primary School

Colwich CE Primary School

St Peter's CE Primary School

Document Control Information

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Author	Charlotte Pilkington (Headteacher on behalf of MT MAT) based on the model policy provided by Lichfield Diocesan Board of Education
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2.1	01.09.2022	UPDATE	C. Pilkington	Added Worship arrangements for 2022-2023 as appendix.
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2.3	01.09.2025	Review	C. Pilkington	Added Worship arrangements for 2025-2026 as appendix.
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Vision Statement

'Opening Doors with Learning, Faith and Care'

Through actively opening doors for everyone in our community, we remove barriers and support all to appreciate 'life in all its fullness' (John 10:10).

As a learning community, we nurture and grow each other as individuals, encouraging all to stretch themselves spiritually, morally, intellectually, emotionally, socially and physically in order to achieve more than they dreamed possible.

We understand that our adventures may be littered with challenges, but with friendship, perseverance and courage we know that 'we can do all things through Christ who strengthens us' (Philippians 4 v 13).

Key Definitions

By definition, 'worship' is giving honour and reverence to a supreme being and our Christian worship is concerned with bringing praise, prayer, thanksgiving and adoration to God.

Worship is an activity of response: in words, actions and thoughts.

The fundamental role of Collective Worship within our MAT

Collective worship plays a central part in the life of all schools within the Mid-Trent MAT, it is at the heart of the MATs foundation as a Christian Trust and is central to the daily life of each of its schools. Collective worship is a means by which the school's Christian vision is expressed and lived, offering the whole school community the opportunity to experience, participate in and take responsibility for the living expression of Christian worship, valued and honoured through the school's Anglican Foundation. This is set within the context of the corporate community of our school and its historic partnership with our local churches. Through worship we affirm every individual's unique contribution, regardless of age, gender, sexuality, ability, background or religion.

Legal Requirements

Trust Deed
Our daily act of collective worship is in accordance with the Trust Deed of the school. This requires worship to be consistent with the faith, principles and practices of the Church of England.
DfES guidance
We also take into account DfES legislation. The following link will take you to the current legislation. https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/collective-worship-in-schools

1988 Education Act
We also take into account the 1988 Education that states, 'all pupils in attendance at a maintained school shall in each school day take part in an act of collective worship', and, that this should be, 'mainly of a broadly Christian character'

Aims of worship

Worship within the Mid-Trent MAT will be:

- Appropriate to the age, aptitude and family background of pupils.
- Provided in a variety of settings, groupings and timings, with a variety of leaders.
- Invitational and inclusive, celebrating the cultures and beliefs of the whole-school family.
- Celebrated as a whole-school, key stage or class.

Our Worship practices open doors for our learners through providing experiences and opportunities which:

- Develop learners' personal spiritual responses
- Foster reflection, meditation, prayer and silence
- Create an atmosphere in which God is both normal and natural
- Foster a reverential attitude to God
- Foster empathy and imagination, enabling pupils to participate in a variety of ways
- Actively involve learners in the delivery of worship in creative and imaginative ways (reading, poetry, drama, dance, quiet / silent reflection, prayer, singing)
- Explore and enjoy praise, prayer and the rituals of Christianity (the Anglican tradition in particular)
- Affirm the Christian faith and the central Christian status of Jesus as the Son of God
- Affirm the Christian belief in the Trinity and explore the meaning of each person of the Trinity
- Explore Eucharistic worship (where appropriate) within the Anglican tradition
- Enable learners to reflect on the experiences of Christian adherents
- Foster and value a search for a faith to live by
- Explore the schools Christian values to deepen learners understanding of them and how they relate to the school family, the local community and the wider world
- Learn about and reflect upon Christian teaching, Biblical material and Christian festivals, in a way that relates to the learners' experience and to living together in community
- Worship together rather than apart
- Provide an evocative setting for worship that fosters spiritual growth and reflection
- Experience a broad spectrum of Christian tradition (various expressions of worship)
- Inspire pupils to explore further their own faith and tradition
- Encourage learners and staff to plan, participate and lead in worship
- Develop a sense of community and shared values
- Consider the needs of others and to foster charitable works
- Celebrate the highest achievements of the human spirit
- Celebrate achievements of members of the school family in every aspect of school life
- Foster a thought provoking atmosphere allowing for spiritual reflection and response
- Make regular use of local church buildings for worship

Within the Mid-Trent MAT we also open doors through:

- Celebrating the beliefs and cultures of others, particularly those represented in our school family.
- Celebrate the achievements of all members of our school family.

- Reinforcing the schools' expectations for respectful behaviour.
- Sharing in our local community.
- Sharing and celebrating in national and local events, which support learners in flourishing as children of God.

Practice and Organisation

All schools within the Mid-Trent MAT take part in a daily act of collective worship, however the organisation and the practices in each school vary as they are adapted to reflect the beliefs, values and vision of each individual school, Church and community.

Appendix A outlines the unique organisation and practices in place at our school.

Management of worship

Foundation members of each individual school's Local Academy Committee, along with the directors and the members of the Mid-Trent MAT have ultimate responsibility for ensuring that the Trust Deeds of all our schools are honoured. The strategic and operational management of this role, in our schools lies, with the Headteacher, who ensures that the distinctly Christian vision for the school is articulated, shared, understood and acted upon through daily acts of collective worship. Headteachers are assisted in their work by a worship coordinator and by all teaching staff who act as 'spiritual leaders' within our Church schools, each with a unique responsibility to support learners in developing their own spiritual awareness.

The school is also well supported by the local clergy and members of the Church who assist the school in planning, resourcing, managing and evaluating collective worship.

The programme of collective worship at St. Peter's is centred around the Christian values, with a different value explored through scripture, story and song each month. Learners are encouraged to reflect upon what the Bible teaches us about these values and why they are important in their everyday lives. Learners are encouraged and enabled to get involved with planning and leading acts of collective worship, and have frequent opportunities to contribute. At St. Peter's our team of spiritual ambassadors work closely with the worship coordinator and the local Church to shape worship which is relevant and pertinent to them.

The Headteacher and the worship coordinator are regularly updated by the Lichfield Diocesan Board of Education regarding the latest information and best practice in collective worship and act as champions for worship within the school.

Monitoring, evaluating & action planning worship

Worship is monitored and evaluated frequently in order to ensure that it meets the needs of all who take part. Worship is an ongoing focus of development year on year and is continually improved as a result of a rigorous focus on the impact of worship. All stakeholders opinions are sought and valued, and where the need arises specific action plan will be created to further improve and develop worship practices in school.

In addition to internal evaluation and monitoring, the quality of collective worship and the impact this has on the whole school community is inspected regularly through the Statutory Inspection of Anglican & Methodist Schools (SIAMS) which explores the ways in which collective worship is an expression of the school's Christian vision.

The right of withdraw

Collective worship lies at the heart of all school life, whilst it is distinctively Christian in character and faith, it is delivered in a way that is relevant, inclusive and personal for all pupils and supports them on their own spiritual journey. As a result, the likelihood of parental requests to withdraw pupils from acts of collective worship should be few. However, we recognise the right of withdrawal from worship for pupils, at the request of parents, and for staff.

Should any parent/staff member wish to exercise this right we ask them to write to the Headteacher who will then invite them into school to discuss their concerns openly, affording dignity and respect to all.

Through this discussion, the following it will be necessary to establish:

- the elements of worship in which the parent/ staff member would object to the child taking part;
- the practical implications of withdrawal; and
- whether the parent will require any advanced notice of such worship, and, if so, how much.

Every attempt will be made to work with families to respond positively to a request to withdraw from collective worship following this discussion, providing that:

- such arrangements can be made at no additional cost to the school; and
- that the alternative provision would be consistent with the overall purposes of the school curriculum as set out in Section 1 of the 1988 Education Act. (Circular 1/94)

Policy Review

This policy is reviewed annually in line with annual plans for collective worship in school.
See document control information above for date of most recent review and next review date.

Appendix A: Collective Worship Organisation and Current Practices at St. Peter's CE Primary School, Hixon.

Daily Acts of Worship

As a school we value our worship time, and as such it holds a sacred place within our school timetable. The following daily acts of worship are planned each week, these are linked to the whole-school theme and allow for worshiping as a whole-school, class and key stage.

Organisation 2026-2027

Monday – Whole-school worship
This is led by the Headteacher and introduces the theme and scripture to be explored through worship this week.

Tuesday – Songs of Praise
This is a whole-school gathering, led by the singing lead. It includes songs of praise as well as time to be still and reflect.

Wednesday – Story and Scripture
This is a class-based worship, which gives pupils time to explore and reflect on the Bible stories (KS1) or scripture (KS2) presented in whole-school worship, more deeply.

Thursday – Applying our faith/ OTB
This is a class-based worship, led by teachers. It roots the teachings of the week in practical application and ensures that pupils see the relevance and importance of the Bible's word in their lives today.

Friday – Celebration Worship
This is a whole-school gathering with prayers which celebrates pupils' individual and collective achievements in learning and beyond.

Planning and Organisation
Worship is planned through Christian values and a focus value is explored through scripture each month. The school's Christian values are included within the cycle and Headteacher awards, presented each Friday, are presented to pupils' who demonstrate these values each week.

	2026-2027
September	Friendship
October	Thankfulness
November	Perseverance
December	Compassion
January	Respect
February	Courage
March	Hope
April	Justice
May	Forgiveness
June	Service
July	Responsibility

Worship is planned for all by the Headteacher/Worship Lead to ensure consistency and depth to every element.

Pupil-Led Worship
At St. Peter's pupils have an active role in planning and delivering our daily acts of worship. A team of Spiritual Ambassadors are elected each year from KS2 for this important role. They meet regularly with the worship leader and OTB team to:

- Select and write prayers
- Select hymns
- Suggest key figures to explore who demonstrate our focus values
- Read planned scripture and reflect upon it

Within our worship, pupils are invited to:

- Light candles
- Read prayers
- Perform elements of worship (eg. reading, drama, procession).

Monitoring and Evaluation
The quality and impact of worship is monitored regularly within the school's monitoring and evaluation cycle. As part of this monitoring observations of worships and reviews of class reflection logs are conducted as well as pupil voice activities which allow worship to be understood through the eyes of our children.
Annual questionnaires with pupils and parents are conducted and feed into our monitoring and evaluation schedule.
Collective worship is part of our continual development plans and as such is ever evolving and improving.

Prayer
Our school prayer was written by our children through the worship team, with support from our Foundation LAC members and OTB team.

Father God,
Thank you for our wonderful school, St. Peter's.
Bless our staff, pupils and friends.
Thank you for helping us to strive in life, learn every day and grow ever closer to you.
In the name of your son, Jesus Christ,
Amen.

Partners in Worship
Pupils attend worship at St. Peter's Church regularly. They attend services in Church at Harvest, Easter, Christmas and the feast day of St. Peter as a minimum. Each class also lead prayer services in Church throughout the school year.
The Open the Book Team from the Mid-Trent Churches join us for worship fortnightly, along with Rev. Vivienne Starkey and are instrumental in designing and presenting worship in exciting and interesting ways.
Parents and families are invited into school regularly to join us in worship and celebration.