



SUTTON CE (VC) PRIMARY SCHOOL

Collective Worship and Spirituality

Approved by staff	☐	June 2026
Approved by Governors	☐	June 2026

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1. Introduction

‘Worship’ means giving worth to or celebrating the worthiness of someone or something. In a Christian context this involves honouring and responding to God. The term collective worship recognises that the school community gathers together as a group which includes people with a range of beliefs. Within this community, some may actively participate in worship, others may be reflective observers, and others may simply experience the opportunity for reflection and spiritual growth.

At Sutton CE (VC) Primary School, collective worship is a central part of school life. It provides a time when the whole school community can gather together to reflect, celebrate and explore the Christian vision and values that underpin our school. As a voluntary controlled Church school, our collective worship reflects the traditions of the Church of England and is broadly Christian in character, with particular reference to our Anglican heritage.

Collective worship provides an opportunity for pupils and adults to:

- reflect on life’s deeper questions
- celebrate achievements and community
- develop spiritually
- encounter Christian teachings and values
- explore how faith can shape responses to the world around us

Our worship contributes significantly to pupils’ spiritual, moral, social and cultural development and reflects the expectations outlined in the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Framework and the Church of England Statement of Entitlement.

2. Our School Christian Vision and Values

Our Christian vision is:

Living life to the full
(John:10:10)



Our core Christian values shape our school ethos and are remembered through the acronym **STRIVE**, encouraging everyone to be the very best they can be.

STRIVE

Safe	We uphold and protect each other's rights to be safe from harm. <i>"Trust in the LORD and do good; dwell in the land and enjoy safe pasture."</i> (Psalm 37:3)
Together	We celebrate our place within local, national and global communities. <i>"So in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others."</i> (Romans 12:4)
Respect	We celebrate and embrace our differences. <i>"So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you."</i> (Matthew 7:12)
Integrity	We are open and honest with one another. <i>"The Lord delights in people who are trustworthy."</i> (Proverbs 12:22)
Valued	We listen to and respect each other's views so that all can flourish. <i>"Love your neighbour as yourself."</i> (Mark 12:31)
Excellence	We try our best so that we may reach our full potential. <i>"If anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things."</i> (Philippians 4:8)

Collective worship plays an important role in helping children understand and live out these values in their daily lives.

3. Spiritual Development

At Sutton CE (VC) Primary School, spirituality is central to our Christian vision. Spirituality involves reflecting on life's big questions, developing a sense of awe and wonder, and exploring relationships with ourselves, others, the wider world and, for many, with God.

Collective worship provides a key opportunity for pupils to develop spiritually through reflection, prayer, silence, story and music.

Pupils are encouraged to:

- experience awe and wonder
- reflect on their beliefs and values
- develop empathy and compassion
- explore questions of meaning and purpose
- recognise the beauty and complexity of the world

awe & wonder



To support a shared understanding of spirituality across the school, we use the language of:

WOWs – OWS – NOWs



nows



ows



wows





The Wows

These are awe and wonder moments. The time when you want to breathe in and capture the feeling holding onto it as long as you can.



ows



The Ows

These are the things that can go wrong. They can knock the breath out of you.



nows



The Nows

These are every day ordinary times:
being able to be present in the moment, thinking of what we have now and how lucky we are to be here - now. (Being thankful- God is not just for emergencies)



These help children reflect on the world around them and their role within it.

This shared language supports children in recognising spiritual moments and encourages them to reflect deeply and respond thoughtfully.

4. Aim of Collective Worship

Collective worship aims to:

- help children discover their place in the world
- provide opportunities to reflect upon God and the teachings of Jesus

- nurture pupils' spiritual development
- develop a vocabulary and understanding of worship
- celebrate Christian festivals and traditions
- encourage reflection on life's ultimate questions
- help pupils recognise their worth and value
- encourage moments of silence for reflection, meditation and prayer
- celebrate gifts, talents and achievements
- reinforce the school's Christian values
- promote a strong sense of community
- support pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development
- develop empathy and compassion for others
- promote understanding and respect for people of all faiths and beliefs
- build links with the local church and wider community
- encourage stewardship and care for God's creation
- foster feelings of awe, wonder, thankfulness and joy
- provide memorable and meaningful shared experiences

5. Practice at Sutton CE (VC) Primary School

Every pupil is entitled to a daily act of collective worship, in accordance with legislation.

Worship may take place in different groupings including:

- whole school worship
- key stage worship
- class worship

Children in the Foundation Stage take part in class worship during the Autumn term. From the Spring term onwards they join whole school worship twice a week. Special services are held at St Andrew's Church, usually led by the vicar or other ministers. Staff, pupils and parents may also contribute to these services. Collective worship within school may be led by:

- the Headteacher
- senior leaders
- teachers
- the local vicar
- other Christian representatives
- pupils

Pupils are encouraged to contribute to the planning, leading and evaluation of collective worship.

6. Weekly Structure of Collective Worship

To support spiritual development, collective worship follows a reflective structure across the week using the shared language of **WOWs**, **OWS** and **NOWs**.

- **Monday** – WOWs (The WOWs of the Bible)
Worship focuses on moments of awe and wonder found within the Bible. These stories help pupils explore God's character, recognise goodness and beauty in the world, and reflect on Christian teachings.
- **Tuesday** – OWS (The OWS of the World)
Worship explores challenges, injustice and difficulties faced in the world today. Pupils reflect on questions such as:
Why do difficult things happen?
How are people affected?
How might faith help people respond?
This develops empathy, compassion and global awareness.
- **Wednesday** – Choral Worship
Whole school singing worship provides an opportunity for praise through music and shared celebration.
- **Thursday** – NOWs (Our Response)
Children reflect on how they might respond to the issues explored earlier in the week. Pupils consider practical ways to live out the school's Christian values through acts of kindness, courage, forgiveness, service and justice.

Recording Thursday Class Collective Worship

- Thursday collective worship sessions are recorded in individual class floor books. These records capture pupils' discussions, reflections and responses to the themes explored during worship throughout the week, particularly the "NOWs" element, where children consider how they can apply Christian values in their own lives. The floor books provide evidence of pupil voice, spiritual reflection and developing understanding, and demonstrate how children respond to issues, questions and experiences discussed during collective worship. Class teachers lead and facilitate these sessions and are responsible for maintaining the records. The quality and impact of these reflections are monitored regularly by the Collective Worship Lead and the

Headteacher as part of the school's ongoing evaluation of collective worship and spiritual development.

- **Friday – STRIVE** Celebration Worship

This worship celebrates achievements, reflects on the week and recognises pupils who have demonstrated the school's Christian values.'

Worship Structure

Collective worship may include:

- Bible readings or stories
- prayer
- reflection and silence
- music and singing
- drama or storytelling
- pupil contributions
- visual or creative responses

A reflective routine is often used which may include lighting a candle to mark a special time for worship.

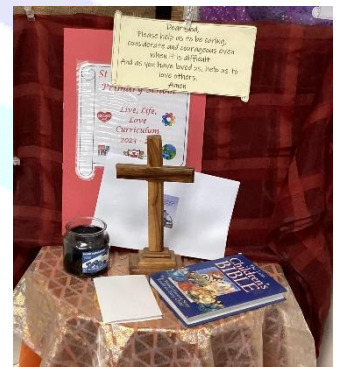
7. Spiritual Reflection Spaces

Spiritual reflection is encouraged throughout the school environment.

Each classroom contains a spiritual reflection space where pupils can pause, think and respond to ideas explored in worship, Religious Education or daily life.

These spaces may include:

- reflective questions linked to worship themes
- prayer or reflection prompts
- natural objects or artwork that inspire awe and wonder
- opportunities for pupils to write or draw responses



These areas help children develop habits of reflection and encourage engagement with spirituality throughout the school day.

8. Planning Collective Worship

The Headteacher, Assistant Headteacher and on occasion vicar work together to plan collective worship themes on a termly basis.

These themes:

- reflect the school's Christian vision and values
 - align with guidance from the Diocese of Ely
 - support pupils' spiritual development
 - provide opportunities for a variety of worship styles and experiences
 - Governors are informed of these themes through the Teaching and Learning Committee.
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9. Monitoring and Evaluation

Collective worship is regularly monitored and evaluated by the Headteacher, the Collective Worship Lead and governors.

Evaluation considers how effectively worship:

- reflects the school's Christian vision
- supports pupils' spiritual development
- engages pupils in reflection and prayer
- allows pupils to plan and lead worship
- reflects the guidance of the Church of England Statement of Entitlement
- meets the expectations of the SIAMS framework

Pupil voice is an important part of this process and children are encouraged to share their thoughts about collective worship.

10. Management of Collective Worship

The Governing Body is responsible for ensuring that the Collective Worship Policy is implemented and monitored.

The Headteacher ensures that collective worship takes place on a daily basis in accordance with legal requirements and the wishes of the governing body.

11. Parents Right to Withdraw

Parents have the legal right to withdraw their child from collective worship.

If a parent wishes to do so, alternative arrangements will be made in consultation with the Headteacher. These arrangements will ensure appropriate **supervision** of the pupil.

Information regarding withdrawal can also be found in the school prospectus.

12. References

Church of England Education Office (2019).

Church of England Vision for Education: Deeply Christian, Serving the Common Good. London: Church House Publishing.

Church of England Education Office (2019).

Collective Worship in Church of England Schools: Statement of Entitlement.

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SIAMS Evaluation Schedule for Schools and Academies.

Department for Education (1988).

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Promoting Fundamental British Values as part of SMSC in schools.