



Ivington C of E
Primary and
Pre-school

*Reaching together with the Fruit of the
Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23)*

Collective Worship Policy

Approval of the Governing Body

This document is a statement of the aims, principles and strategies for:

Collective Worship

At

Ivington CE (VA) Primary and Pre-school

It was revised during the:

Autumn Term 2025

It has been agreed and is supported by the teaching staff and the governing body.

We aim to review this policy during the:

Autumn Term 2028

Or sooner if necessary



Linking with our Vision – Reaching together with Love, Joy and Peace (Galatians 5:22-23)

To provide a caring, Christian ethos for the school, which inspires and excites a shared enthusiasm for life and learning.

At Ivington CE Primary and Pre-school, through our strong Christian ethos and focus on nine important Christian values, we are committed to providing a deeply nourishing, spiritual, ambitious, and broad curriculum.

Our motto, 'Reaching together' underpins our belief in equality of opportunity for all, where we actively endeavour to promote understanding and appreciation of our diverse society and give each child a special place in the world where they feel valued, essential to our community and equipped with the necessary skills to make a positive contribution.

We perceive our role to be opening a 'Window on the World', through which our pupils are actively encouraged to develop respect for the beliefs and cultures which enrich their everyday lives and encourage others to do likewise.

We strive to eliminate inequality through our deep Christian ethos of respect and understanding of all groups in society, which ensures that everyone at Ivington will be treated fairly despite his or her creed, colour, disability, or gender.

More details are available in our Inclusion, Racial Equality and Equal Opportunities policies.

The health, safety, and welfare of all the people who work or learn at our school are therefore of fundamental importance. We aim to provide a safe, secure, and pleasant working environment for everyone. The governing body, along with the LA, takes responsibility for protecting the health, safety and welfare of all children and members of staff.

Collective worship - Introduction

Ivington Church of England (Voluntary Aided) Primary and Pre-school regards collective worship as central to its foundation status as a church school. It is an integral and important part of school life. For the purposes of this document, 'collective worship' is the special time put aside each day in our school for 'worship'.

We understand worship to be a special act or occasion whose purpose is to show reverence to God and affirming an allegiance to shared Christian values. Collective worship involves all members of the school coming together and participating. We expect everyone to take an active part, including the staff.

Collective worship is a time where we come together to share our love of God and celebrate our achievements (and sometimes failures) together. The worship of the school is based on exploring the Christian values linked to our Christian vision 'Reaching together in Faith' underpinned by the Fruits of the Spirit (Galatians) which permeate the ethos of the school as well as being drawn from the traditions of the Christian faith and often reflect the festivals and events of the Christian calendar, or important events in the world. As such, the contributions of staff, pupils, church clergy and other visitors are valued highly. We celebrate that worship within the traditions of the Church of England exists for all. We truly wish for our worship to be inclusive, invitational, and inspiring.

By definition, the word 'worship' is about giving 'worth, honour and respect to'. At Ivington collective worship is both inspirational and aspirational. The word 'collective' suggests the possibility of a number of 'worships' as opposed to the 'corporate' worship of a body of like-minded believers. The word collective opens up the opportunities of individuals from many different faith backgrounds, and certainly those with no faith background at all, discovering possibilities and opportunities. It is about exploring together and individually; discovering what might be 'worthy of honour and respect' It provides an opportunity to explore Christian liturgy, stories (sometimes from wider world views) and Christian values in an ethos which actively encourages awe, wonder and reflection.

As a school, we have chosen 9 Christian values based on the Fruits of the Spirit. Whilst all of these values permeate everything that we do as a school, we focus on 1 a term in worship (on a 3 year rolling programme)

Year A

	Autumn Term 2026	Spring Term 2027	Summer Term 2027
Value	Love	Joy	Peace

Year B

	Autumn Term 2027	Spring Term 2028	Summer Term 2028
Value	Patience	Kindness	Goodness

Year C

	Autumn Term 2025	Spring Term 2026	Summer Term 2026
Value	Faithfulness	Gentleness	Self-control

In our school, the process of worship takes place through a variety of media - song, story, drama, dance, music, poetry, prayer, response and reflection, class, groups and whole school and is designed to take into account the varying needs of all of our children, ensuring that all can access at a level appropriate for them.

Aims and purpose

Underlying Principles of Collective Worship at Ivington

The following principles are considered when arranging acts of collective worship:

*A candle is always lit before the liturgical welcome.

- Collective worship is the 'beating heart' of the school.
- Collective worship should provide an opportunity for staff, pupils and visitors to appreciate the relevance of what worshipping God is like.

- Collective worship should provide an opportunity to encounter the teachings of Jesus and the Bible and develop an understanding of the Trinitarian nature of God.
- An act of worship should enable children to consider spiritual and moral issues together in a distinctly spiritual atmosphere conducive to worship and to have an awareness of God's presence as well as celebrating the beliefs and backgrounds of individual member
- An act of collective worship should acknowledge and value the response of each pupil. It should be a time to share thoughts and ideas, encouraging participation and response and to enable children to explore their own beliefs.
- An act of worship should be a daily reinforcement of the feeling of community - one body of people with different views valuing each other as individuals and foster a spirit of belonging within the school.
- Worship should promote a common ethos with shared values and to reinforce positive attitudes.
- Worship should enable children to explore and enjoy praise and prayer and to express feelings of delight, joy, sorrow and to rejoice in the good.
- An act of worship should be designed for all children and adults to grow spiritually through experiences of reflection, stillness and prayer.
- It provides a time to share and celebrate the successes and efforts of the children in the school within an atmosphere that allows for spiritual reflection and response.
- Collective worship enables children to appreciate, explore and know how others worship God and why they worship in a particular way, thus fostering new insights and empathy about the life of faith of others.
- Worship provides an opportunity to worship together, thinking about the needs of others with care and sensitivity, fostering a concern for the needs of others regardless of race, colour or creed and should encourage children to look beyond the immediate environment of the school and reinforce their place in the wider community.
- Worship encourages children to foster and value a search for faith to live by, providing an opportunity for children to celebrate, give thanks and share emotions such as love, joy, hope, friendship, acceptance, anguish, fear, reverence and forgiveness.
- Worship develops the ability to listen and respond appropriately to a variety of speakers.

- An act of worship is an interactive process.
- Acts of worship should encourage pupils to have confidence in their own traditions and to value the traditions of others.
- Collective worship should also enable children (and adults) to develop skills through engaging others through planning, leading and evaluating so that practice is improved.
- Collective worship is something that is not bound by the constraints of time and place: the effects of worship should permeate through the life of the school.
- Put succinctly, worship should be truly welcoming, inclusive and exemplifying the principles of Christian hospitality. It is not a time to give out notices.

Organisation of collective worship

We hold a daily act of collective worship in our school. Our collective acts of worship are seen as an important part of our school life. They reflect and support our promotion of Christian values. The children are given time to reflect and to think in a way to help them grow as spiritual beings.

Worship in school is organised around termly or half termly themes. They follow the following pattern:

- ✧ Monday – Class worship
- ✧ Tuesday – is our ‘guest speaker’ assembly; (Usually a member of our local team ministry e.g. Rev’d Matthew Burns.)
- ✧ Wednesday – Class Worship led by Mark Harrington
- ✧ Thursday – ‘Open the Book’, an exploration of stories from the Bible. Pupils are actively involved in the presentation
- ✧ Friday – Celebration assembly, when stickers, certificates, praise are awarded to children for effort, work, attitudes, citizenship, sporting or musical achievements... (A positive way to end the week!) Class worship also takes place on this day
- ✧ Grace is said each day before lunch
- ✧ Each day concludes with a prayer. Children’s own prayers are often used.
- ✧ Prayer Space takes place during two lunch breaks a week
- ✧ Once a half term a class leads collective worship
- ✧ Peace club runs for 1 term a year

We also take part in Acts of Worship:

- ✧ With other schools – e.g. The Leominster Pyramid Carol Concert
- ✧ Annual Y6 Leavers Service in Hereford Cathedral

- ❖ In our village church as we celebrate our school and Christian year
- ❖ As guests of the local community for some of their church services
- ❖ The school choir 'The Honeybrook Singers' with members of the local community. The singers support worship at St. John's Church and many other churches in the local area where they have also been invited to sing for weddings, christenings etc.

We occasionally invite parents to our class worship in school which we are lucky enough to be able to celebrate in the village church of St. John's Ivington and regularly invite them to our end of term acts of worship, We appreciate this wonderful facility and feel these services help promote the community spirit of the school and are a practical demonstration of the way the home, the school and the community work together to support the achievements of our children and to promote their spiritual being.

We welcome governors' attendance at our worship at any time.

Management of Collective Worship

The Governing Body have responsibility to ensure the Trust Deed of the school is honoured. The Collective Worship policy sets out the management and delivery of this part of school life.

The Collective Worship leader manages this area of the curriculum, ensuring all legal requirements are complied with. This involves the production of a coherent programme for Collective Worship which has continuity of Christian teaching and experience, breadth and balance as is appropriate to the school community.

The Collective Worship Co-ordinator monitors resources available for Collective Worship and ensures that they are accessible to staff and pupils as appropriate. An annual budget is available to ensure that the worship programme can be carried out effectively.

Resources for Collective Worship are plentiful. They can be found in the Worship Boxes.

Right of withdrawal

We expect all children to attend assembly. However, any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from attending religious worship and the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during the period concerned. Parents do not have to explain or give reasons for this. This complies with the 1944 Education Act and was restated in the 1988 Education Reform Act.

The Headteacher would keep a record of all children who are withdrawn from collective worship – if this were necessary.

Equal Opportunities

Our school worship is about sharing what is meaningful and significant in our lives. It is about sharing our common concerns and responsibilities and developing positive attitudes, ideals and values. It is about affirming the equality of each individual in God's sight, whatever a child's gender, ethnicity, physical or mental ability.

The staff and governors at Ivington CE Primary School are committed to ensuring that every child in the school will derive some benefit from Collective Worship, whatever their academic ability. Every attempt is made, therefore, to ensure that materials used are appropriate to a range of abilities, aptitudes and interests.

Monitoring and review

It is the roles of Sarah Gurney and Dr Lesley Brooks school governor with responsibility for religious education and collective worship to monitor the policy and practice of collective worship. The governor concerned liaises with the Headteacher before reporting to the governors on religious education and collective worship. They also meet with the collective worship committee.

Records of Collective Worship and responses to it are kept. Monitoring the quality of Collective Worship is an ongoing process through observation of the children's attentiveness and level of interest, classroom feedback and observation of children's general behaviour in and around the school, and towards each other. Collective worship committee feedback and parent questionnaires.