

St Matthew's Bloxam Church of England (VC) Primary School



Collective Worship Policy

May 2026

1. Introduction

Collective Worship at St Matthew's Bloxam CE (VC) Primary School is central to the life of our community. As a Church of England Voluntary Controlled school, our worship is **distinctly Christian**, reflecting Anglican principles and practices as required for Church schools. [\[gloucester...glican.org\]](#)

Our school vision, "*Let Your Light Shine*," inspires us to nurture forgiveness, reconciliation, confidence, delight, hope and aspirations. Collective Worship is a key expression of this vision, enabling staff and pupils to explore Christian teaching, develop character, and flourish spiritually.

Worship at St Matthew's is shaped by the Church of England's national guidance which states that worship in Church schools should be **inclusive, invitational and inspiring**. [\[churchofengland.org\]](#)

2. Legal Framework

We comply with the **School Standards and Framework Act 1998**, which requires **a daily act of collective worship** for all pupils except those withdrawn by parents.

The Department for Education also requires all maintained schools to provide daily collective worship. [\[cdbe.org.uk\]](#) [\[gov.uk\]](#)

As a Church of England school:

- Worship is **Christian in character** and consistent with Anglican belief and tradition. [\[gloucester...glican.org\]](#)
- Acts of worship may take place in various groupings including whole school, key stage, year group or class.
- Worship must take account of pupils' age, aptitude and background. [\[cdbe.org.uk\]](#)

Parents retain the right to withdraw their child from worship after discussion with the Headteacher.

3. Aims of Collective Worship

Our Collective Worship aims to:

Inclusive

- Engage all members of the community, allowing everyone to participate with integrity regardless of faith background.
- Build a sense of belonging, identity and community.

Invitational

- Offer opportunities to participate without pressure.
- Provide space for reflection, prayer, questioning and stillness.

Inspiring

- Encourage pupils and adults to think deeply, ask big questions and act with compassion, hope and love.
 - Motivate the whole school community to live out Christian values.
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4. Objectives

Collective Worship at St Matthew's enables children and adults to:

- Explore the school's Christian vision and core values.
 - Understand the teachings of Jesus and the Trinitarian nature of God.
 - Build virtues that support academic progress, character development and wellbeing.
 - Grow spiritually through varied forms of worship.
 - Engage with big questions and spiritual, moral and ethical issues.
 - Work alongside adults to plan, deliver and reflect on worship.
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5. Organisation and Pattern of Worship

We provide **daily worship** across the week, led by:

- Senior leaders
- Clergy
- Staff

- Invited visitors
- Pupils

Structure of Worship (Roots and Fruits format)

Each act of worship follows a consistent gathering–engaging–responding–sending framework:

- **Gather:**
 - Welcome
 - Lighting of three candles (Holy Trinity)
 - “Let Your Light Shine!” call
 - The Lord’s Prayer
- **Engage:**
 - Story, teaching, drama, reading, discussion or reflection
- **Respond:**
 - Prayer, stillness, music, questions, creative reflection
- **Send:**
 - Blessing and call to action

Environment

Acts of worship take place in the school halls and include:

- Worship table with **liturgical colours**, a cross and a Bible
- Music linked to the value of the term
- Images, visuals or PowerPoints
- Symbolic actions and opportunities for reflection

Weekly Pattern

Day	Time	Led By
Monday	9:00/9:15	Headteacher / Open the Book
Tuesday	9:00	Headteacher / Open the Book
Wednesday	9:00	Staff member / Clergy
Thursday	9:00	Headteacher / Open the Book
Friday	9:00	Celebration or Class Worship – parents invited

Seasonal and Church-Based Worship

Worship for **Harvest, Christmas and Easter** takes place in **St Oswald’s Church**, supporting engagement with Anglican liturgy and tradition. [cdbe.org.uk]

6. Collective Worship Themes

We follow a **four-year rolling programme** based on Christian values and the school's core values. Each term focuses on one or two values, aligning with the Church's liturgical year.

SMB LONG TERM COLLECTIVE WORSHIP - VALUES				
Term	Year A 2024-2025	Year B 2025-2026	Year C 2026-2027	Year D 2027-2028
Autumn	Respect (Dignity)	Perseverance (Hope)	Compassion (Love)	Friendship
	Christmas	Christmas	Christmas	Christmas
Spring	Generosity	Thankfulness (Joy)	Truthfulness	Justice
	Easter Lent – Reconciliation	Easter Lent – Reconciliation	Easter Lent – Reconciliation	Easter Lent – Reconciliation
Summer	Forgiveness (Peace)	Courage	Trust (Wisdom)	Service

7. Pupil Leadership in Worship

Pupil involvement is a significant strength at St Matthew's Bloxam and matches national expectations for Church schools.

- The **Worship Group** and **ICONS ambassadors** contribute to planning and leading worship in school and church.
- Pupils lead class worship and help prepare resources.

This supports SIAMS's emphasis on pupil agency and spiritual flourishing in worship leadership. [\[gloucester...glican.org\]](https://www.glican.org)

8. Monitoring and Evaluation

We evaluate worship to ensure it remains impactful and reflective of our Christian vision:

- Worship leaders gather verbal feedback after sessions.
- Parents share feedback through questionnaires and written responses.

- Governors monitor using the school's collective worship formal proforma in line with SIAMS expectations.
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9. Right to Withdraw

Parents have the legal right to withdraw their child from collective worship. We encourage parents to meet with the Headteacher to understand the nature and purpose of worship before making a decision. [\[gov.uk\]](https://www.gov.uk)

10. Links to Other Policies

- Spirituality Policy
 - Positive Relationships and Behaviour Policy
 - PSHE/RSHE Policy
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11. Policy Review

The SIAMS Committee and Governing Body will review this policy every two years, next due in **Summer 2028**.