St James CE Academy

Collective Worship Policy

"Here at St James we believe that 'everyone is loved, this will allow all to flourish and unlock their potential promoting joy in lifelong learning. We will use our faith, Gods words and the light he gives to support this."

Unlocking potential and flourishing

"I can do all things through Christ; who strengthens me."

Philippians 4:13

Joy in Lifelong learning

"Put these abilities to work; throw yourself into your tasks so that everyone may notice your improvement and progress."

1Timothy 4:15

Everyone is Loved

"My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you"

John 15:12

Policy adopted: October 2026

Date of next review: October 2028

Collective Worship at St James CE Academy

Our Vision

At St James CE Academy, Collective Worship is the heartbeat of our school community and reflects our deeply rooted Christian vision:

"Here at St James, we believe that everyone is loved. This will allow all to flourish and unlock their potential, promoting joy in lifelong learning. We will use our faith, God's words and the light He gives to support this."

"My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you." John 15:12

Our worship enables every member of our school community to experience this vision in action. Through opportunities for prayer, reflection, exploration and celebration, we create a space where children and adults can grow spiritually, develop wisdom, deepen their understanding of themselves and others and recognise the unique value and dignity of every individual. As a Christian community, worship provides opportunities to encounter and engage with God, to explore the Christian faith and to reflect upon our own beliefs, values and responses to the world around us.

As a Church of England school, Collective Worship is inclusive, invitational and inspiring. It offers opportunities for all members of our community, regardless of faith background or belief, to participate in moments of reflection and consider how our Christian values can shape our daily lives.

Intent

Collective Worship is a central part of school life and plays a significant role in promoting our vision of love, flourishing and joy in lifelong learning.

Through worship we aim to:

- Enable every member of our school community to feel loved, valued and included.
- Deepen understanding of Christian beliefs and teachings.
- Provide opportunities for spiritual growth and personal reflection.
- Encourage pupils to explore life's big questions.
- Develop wisdom, empathy, compassion and respect.
- Inspire courageous action and service to others.
- Celebrate individual and collective achievements.

- Foster a sense of belonging within the school, local community and wider world.
- Encourage pupils to recognise and develop their God-given gifts and talents.
- Provide opportunities for all members of the school community to engage with God and explore the Christian faith.
- Enable pupils and adults to reflect upon, develop and articulate their own beliefs, values and sense of purpose.
- Strengthen the sense of community, belonging and shared responsibility within our school family.

The Nature of Collective Worship

Collective Worship at St James is distinctly Christian and reflects the traditions of the Church of England while remaining fully inclusive of all members of our school community.

Our worship provides opportunities for both communal and individual spiritual engagement. Through gathering as a worshipping community and through personal reflection, participants are encouraged to:

- Gather together as a community.
- Engage with biblical teachings and Christian values.
- Reflect upon personal experiences and current events.
- Respond through prayer, silence, discussion, music and creative expression.
- Celebrate achievements and milestones.
- Explore how faith inspires action and service.
- Encounter and respond to God through prayer, reflection, worship and contemplation.

Worship is invitational rather than compulsory participation. We invite children and adults to engage in ways that are meaningful and appropriate to them whilst maintaining respect for the worshipping community. Collective Worship is both a communal experience, where we come together as a school family, and an opportunity for personal reflection and spiritual response.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
WEEK 1	Water Safety	Rail Safety	Christian Value Responsibility	UC 'Creation'	Celebration
WEEK 2	LOVED!	What is Humanism?	UC 'Fall'	UC 'People of God'	Celebration
WEEK 3	UC 'Incarnation'	UC 'Gospel'	UC 'Salvation'	UC ' Kingdom of God' St James Church	Celebration
WEEK 4	Do it the St James Way!	Worldviews	YR 3 Kingsbury Water Park	The same can be different!	Celebration
WEEK 5	The Parables The Wise and Foolish Builders	YR5 Black Country Museum Trip	YR4 Think Tank Trip	SPORTS DAY	Celebration
WEEK 6	Dress Rehearsal Macbeth	The Parables The Sower and the Soil	The Parables The Mustard Seed	Moving on! St James Church	Celebration
WEEK 7	TBC	TBC	TBC	Church Service at St James	Year 6 Leavers

Structure of Collective Worship

Collective Worship takes place daily and follows a carefully planned programme linked to our syllabus and Vision – Please see a sample of the termly Worships below:-

Opportunities for pupil leadership are actively promoted through pupil-led worship and contributions from classes throughout the year.

Spiritual Development

At St James, we recognise that spiritual growth is an important part of enabling children to flourish.

Collective Worship provides regular opportunities for children to:

- Experience awe and wonder.
- Reflect on their own beliefs and values.
- Develop a sense of identity and belonging.
- Consider questions of meaning and purpose.

- Respond thoughtfully to the experiences of others.
- Develop gratitude, hope and resilience.
- Reflect on their relationship with God and consider how faith and belief can shape their lives.

Children are encouraged to engage with periods of stillness, reflection and prayer in ways that are meaningful to them.

Pupil Leadership

Pupils play an active role in shaping Collective Worship.

Our Worship Council works alongside staff to:

- Contribute ideas for worship themes.
- Lead elements of worship.
- Gather pupil feedback.
- Evaluate the impact of Collective Worship.
- Promote prayer and reflection across the school.

Through these opportunities, pupils develop leadership skills, confidence and a sense of responsibility for the spiritual life of the school.

Prayer and Reflection

Prayer is an important feature of life at St James.

Children are introduced to a wide variety of prayer styles including:

- Traditional Christian prayers.
- Spontaneous prayer.
- Written prayers.
- Reflective prayer stations.
- Silent reflection.
- Pupil-led prayer.

We encourage all children to participate respectfully while recognising that prayer is a personal response. Opportunities to pray are always invitational.

Prayer and reflection spaces are available throughout the school and support children in responding to worship themes and their own spiritual journeys

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Inclusion and Diversity

Guided by our vision that everyone is loved, Collective Worship is intentionally inclusive.

We welcome and value the richness of different faiths, cultures, backgrounds and worldviews represented within our community.

Whilst worship is rooted in Christian teaching and practice, children are encouraged to explore and appreciate the diversity of beliefs present within modern Britain and the wider world. Worship promotes dignity, respect and understanding for all.

Every effort is made to ensure that all members of our community can engage with worship with integrity and belonging.

Partnership with Church and Community

St James CE Academy benefits greatly from its partnership with St James Church, the Diocese of Coventry and Youth Impact. These partnerships enrich Collective Worship, Religious Education and Spiritual Development through shared planning, leading worship, mentoring, special events and opportunities for pupils to explore faith and spirituality within the wider Christian community. Through these relationships, pupils are supported in understanding what it means to live well together, serve others and flourish as unique individuals loved by God.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The impact of Collective Worship is monitored through:

- Pupil voice.
- Worship Council evaluations.
- Reflection journals.
- Learning walks.
- Staff feedback.
- Parent and community feedback.

- Monitoring by school leaders, governors and clergy partners.

Monitoring focuses not only on provision but also on the impact worship has on pupil flourishing, spiritual development, behaviour, relationships and the lived experience of the school's Christian vision.

Right of Withdrawal

Collective Worship is a statutory requirement in schools with a religious character.

Parents and carers have the legal right to request that their child be wholly or partly withdrawn from Collective Worship. Any request should be made directly to the Headteacher.

Before a withdrawal is agreed, the Headteacher will meet with parents or carers to discuss:

- The nature and purpose of Collective Worship at St James.
- The school's Christian vision and inclusive approach.
- The aspects of worship giving rise to concern.
- Possible ways of addressing concerns without withdrawal.

The school will always seek to work positively with families to find a solution that respects both parental rights and the school's Christian foundation.

Staff also retain the legal right to withdraw from leading or attending Collective Worship.

At St James, we hope that all families will recognise the value of Collective Worship in nurturing spirituality, developing community, promoting wellbeing and enabling every child to flourish within a loving and supportive environment.