



Malden Parochial Church of England Primary School
Reflecting the Kingdom of God by Enriching and Transforming Lives

Collective Worship Policy

Approved by:	Governors
Status:	Statutory
Review cycle:	Bi-Annually
Last reviewed:	May 2025
Date of next review:	May 2027

Love Wisdom Joy Peace

Collective Worship Policy for Malden Parochial Church of England Primary School

Introduction

At Malden Parochial Church of England Primary School, collective worship is central to our Christian vision and school community. Rooted in the teachings of Jesus Christ, our worship reflects the traditions of the Church of England and serves as an invitation for all to experience spiritual enrichment and transformation.

Our vision **Reflecting the Kingdom of God by enriching and transforming lives** aligns with the biblical **parable of the mustard seed** (*Matthew 13:31-32*). Just as the mustard seed grows into a mighty tree, providing shelter and nourishment, we believe that Collective Worship nurtures and strengthens the spiritual and moral growth of our pupils, encouraging them to flourish in faith and wisdom.

This policy is guided by the *Inclusive Invitational Inspiring Collective Worship in Church of England Schools Guidance Document* and statutory requirements for Church of England schools.

Aims & Principles

Collective Worship at Malden Parochial aims to:

- Reflect the traditions of the Church of England, ensuring Anglican worship is woven into school life.
- Strengthen our school's Christian character, supporting pupils in spiritual growth.
- Encourage personal reflection, prayer, and praise as part of everyday life.
- Inspire pupils and staff by deepening their understanding of Christian faith and values.
- Promote inclusivity, ensuring all feel welcomed, whether of faith or no faith.

The Parable of the Mustard Seed & Our Vision

Jesus describes the Kingdom of God as "like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. Though it is the smallest of all seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds come and perch in its branches." (*Matthew 13:31-32*).

At Malden Parochial, this parable inspires our approach to worship:

- Worship **nurtures seeds of faith**, allowing pupils to grow spiritually and morally.
- It fosters **a community where all can find belonging**, just as the mustard tree provides shelter.
- Worship encourages **transformation**, helping pupils enrich their lives and those of others.

Structure & Content

Worship is designed to be engaging, meaningful, and reflective of our Christian values. It includes:

- **Bible readings**, prayer, and moments of silent reflection.
- **Celebrations of Christian festivals**, including Christmas, Easter, and Pentecost.
- **Hymns and songs of praise**, uplifting the school community.
- **Encounters with Jesus' teachings**, helping pupils apply Christian principles to their daily lives.
- **Opportunities for pupils to lead worship**, strengthening their faith and confidence.
- **A focus on our Christian vision**, ensuring worship remains inspiring and transformational.



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Pupil Participation & Leadership

Pupils actively participate in worship by:

- Leading prayers and reflections.
- Planning themed worship sessions.
- Sharing personal insights into Christian teachings.
- Creating artistic, musical, or dramatic expressions of faith.

Role of the Worship Coordinator & Local Church

The headteacher and incumbent oversee the worship planning to ensure its continued impact. Worship will take place in school and, where appropriate, in the parish church to deepen pupils' experience of Anglican traditions.

Monitoring & Evaluation

A Faith Group, including pupils, staff, parents, governors, and clergy, regularly reviews worship provision to ensure it aligns with our Christian vision. Evaluations reference the Inclusive Invitational Inspiring principles.

Parental Understanding & Inclusivity

While parents/carers have the legal right to withdraw their children from Collective Worship a meeting with the headteacher must be made to discuss this. It is our hope that families recognise the spiritual and moral value it brings. Worship is **inclusive, invitational, and inspiring**, allowing all pupils and adults to flourish

Centrality of Worship

Collective Worship is **the heartbeat of our school**, shaping our Christian distinctiveness. It provides pupils and adults with the opportunity to **encounter Christian faith**, deepen their spiritual understanding, and engage meaningfully in reflection and prayer.

Encountering Faith

Our goal is for pupils to leave school with:

- A rich understanding of Christianity through Bible reading, prayer, liturgy, and exposure to Christian music and art.
- A personal encounter with Jesus Christ, guiding their spiritual and moral development.

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Legal Framework & Anglican Identity

While fulfilling legal requirements for Collective Worship to be broadly Christian, our worship is deeply rooted in Anglican tradition—rich, lived, and evolving. Worship reflects the diversity of Anglican practice and its relevance in contemporary life.

Inclusive Worship

Collective Worship at Malden Parochial will be:

- **Accessible to All** – Welcoming pupils and adults of all faith backgrounds and spiritual journeys.
- **Space for Reflection** – Encouraging thinking, questioning, participation, or quiet observation.
- **Respectful in Language** – Facilitators use inclusive language, avoiding assumptions about personal faith.
- **Pupil Involvement** – Pupils help plan, lead, and evaluate worship.
- **Contextually Relevant** – Worship reflects pupils' cultural backgrounds and experiences.

Invitational Worship

Our worship follows the "Warm Fires and Open Doors" approach:

- Voluntary Engagement – No one is required to participate in a specific way; all engage at their comfort level.
- Optional Prayer – Pupils may pray or reflect privately in their own way.
- Diverse Music & Liturgy – Worship includes traditional and modern Anglican expressions, enriching faith experiences.

Inspiring Worship

Our worship is formational and transformational, offering:

- Profound questioning about faith, life, and ethical issues.
- Encouragement for courageous advocacy, empowering pupils to stand for causes they believe in.
- Deep reflection on personal beliefs and community values.

Aims & Objectives

Collective Worship at Malden Parochial seeks to:

- Explore Vision & Values – Reinforce our Christian ethos and virtues such as compassion, justice, and resilience.
- Relate Faith to Life – Help pupils apply Christian teachings to their daily lives.
- Foster Spiritual Growth – Provide reflective moments without compulsion.
- Celebrate Diverse Worship Practices – Introduce pupils to silence, music, story, prayer, and liturgy.
- Empower Pupil Leadership – Encourage active involvement in planning and leading worship.



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Provision & Practice

Daily Rhythm Worship offers a daily pause from academic pressures, fostering reflection, unity, and spiritual enrichment.

Rhythm of the Year Worship integrates Church calendar seasons (e.g., Lent, Advent) and significant school events.

Developing Expertise

We invest in training and resourcing staff, pupils, clergy, and external facilitators through:

- Diocesan education support for staff development.
- Pupil worship leader training and mentorship.
- Access to high-quality worship resources.
- Robust monitoring by the governing body, including pupil feedback.
- Proper briefing for external worship facilitators.
- A named staff member overseeing Collective Worship provision.

Growing Faith Initiative

We actively build partnerships between the church, school, and household to foster faith conversations. Worship honours tradition while re-imagining its role in nurturing the faith journey of pupils and families.

At Malden Parochial Church of England Primary School, Collective Worship is transformational, deeply enriching, and rooted in our Christian vision. Like the mustard seed, worship nurtures faith and enables growth, shaping a community where all can flourish. Above all, our worship supports pupils and staff to flourish-offering inspiration, reflection, and a spiritually uplifting experience.

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