

## St. Nicholas School - Collective Worship



# Collective Worship

at

## St Nicholas C of E

*'Together we love, learn and flourish'*

September 2024

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**We flourish through loving ourselves, each other, our school and the wider world. We grow in compassion and confidence and develop our resilience through the courage to embrace learning and new challenges.**



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## Vision Statement:

At St. Nicholas School, we aspire to nurture an inclusive community where every individual is loved and valued for who they are, so that they recognise and realise their unique talents and potential. We flourish through loving ourselves, each other, our school, and the wider world. We grow in compassion and confidence and develop our resilience through the courage to embrace learning and new challenges.

This document aligns with our vision by fostering an environment of reflection, spiritual growth, and community, encouraging our children to develop a sense of self-worth, compassion, and a commitment to positive change in the world around them.

## 1. Purpose of Collective Worship

Collective worship is an important part of life at St. Nicholas School, designed to:

- **Nurture Spiritual and Moral Growth:** Through prayer, reflection, and discussion, collective worship helps children develop their spiritual awareness and understanding of core values like love, compassion, and respect for all.
- **Promote Inclusivity and Community:** Our collective worship celebrates each individual's uniqueness and values the contributions of all members of the school community. We are committed to ensuring every child feels included and valued, recognizing their talents and potential.
- **Encourage Personal Reflection and Growth:** Collective worship provides children with the opportunity to reflect on their actions, develop resilience, and embrace challenges as part of their learning journey.
- **Foster a Sense of Belonging:** It strengthens our sense of school identity, bringing together staff, children, and the wider community in shared acts of reflection and celebration.

## 2. Guiding Principles

Collective worship at St. Nicholas School will be shaped by the following principles, reflecting our school vision:

- **Inclusivity:** Every child, regardless of faith, background, or ability, is invited to take part in collective worship. We ensure that the content of worship is accessible and relevant to all, fostering an atmosphere of belonging and respect.
- **Love and Compassion:** Central to our worship is the understanding that every individual is loved and valued. Through worship, we reflect on how we can show love and kindness to ourselves, each other, and the world around us.
- **Celebration of Talents:** Worship is an opportunity to celebrate the unique gifts and talents of each individual. We will highlight achievements and encourage students to recognise their potential and contribute to the well-being of the community.



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- **Resilience and Growth:** We encourage children to embrace challenges, develop resilience, and approach learning with courage. Through prayer, stories, and reflection, we will explore the importance of perseverance and personal growth.
- **Connection to the Wider World:** Collective worship will encourage children to recognise their responsibility to the wider world, fostering a sense of global citizenship, social justice, and compassion for others.

### 3. Structure of Collective Worship

Collective worship at St. Nicholas School will take place daily throughout the week and will include a variety of approaches to ensure engagement and reflection:

**Acts of Worship:** These include themed Collective Worship gatherings at the start of each week, an invitational Singing Assembly – including prayer and reflection, a class reflection time, where ‘big questions’ are set and explored. We also welcome members of our local Parish for our ‘Open the Book’ each week. Our final Collective Worship for the year is a Celebration Assembly, where the achievements of all our children and staff are celebrated, as we focus on the content of our vision and our three core values; *Belonging, Compassion and Resilience*.

**Themes:** Throughout the year, collective worship will focus on a specific theme linked to our core values, such as:

Self-Love and Respect  
Compassion and Kindness  
Courage and Resilience  
Celebrating Uniqueness  
Love for the World Around Us

These themes will tie into wider learning and activities throughout the school year and provide opportunities for children to reflect deeply on their role in the community and the world.

**Inclusive Practices:** Worship is designed to reflect the diversity of the school community. Prayer and reflection may be led by staff, children, or outside visitors, and will be inclusive of all faiths and beliefs. Opportunities for personal reflection will also be given to allow children to connect with the themes in ways that are meaningful to them.

### 4. Leadership and Participation

**Pupil Involvement:** children are encouraged to take an active role in collective worship, from leading prayers to sharing reflections on the theme of the day. This empowers children to develop leadership skills and fosters a sense of ownership in the worship process.



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**Staff Participation:** All staff are invited to contribute to and participate in collective worship, either by leading, sharing, or supporting the children. Staff members will model the values of respect, inclusivity, and reflection that we aim to instil in our children.

**Community Involvement:** Collective Worship will also include involvement from our wider community, including parents, carers, and local faith leaders, where appropriate. We will celebrate the diversity of our community and promote a sense of shared purpose.

### 5. Reflection and Evaluation

**Feedback and Review:** Regular feedback will be sought from children, staff, and parents to ensure that collective worship is meaningful and impactful. This can include informal discussions, surveys, or focus groups.

**Adaptation:** Worship practices will be adapted as needed to ensure they remain relevant, engaging, and reflective of our school's vision. The content of both will be regularly reviewed to ensure it aligns with our values and the spiritual needs of our students.

### 6. Accessibility and Special Considerations

**Inclusivity for All:** We ensure that Collective Worship is inclusive and accessible for all children, including those with special educational needs or disabilities. Adjustments will be made to the delivery of worship to accommodate individual needs.

**Respect for All Beliefs:** While Collective Worship at St. Nicholas will generally be Christian in nature, we recognise and respect the diverse beliefs and traditions within our school community. Worship will be designed in a way that welcomes all Children, regardless of their faith background.

### 7. Conclusion

The purpose of Collective Worship at St. Nicholas School is to foster an environment where all individuals are loved and valued, where their unique talents and potential are celebrated, and where they are encouraged to grow in *compassion, confidence, and resilience*. Through inclusive, meaningful worship, we aim to inspire each child to recognize their worth, embrace challenges, and contribute positively to the school and wider world.

We are committed to ensuring that Collective Worship remains a central and transformative part of life at St. Nicholas, empowering all members of our school community to flourish.

