Charlton Mackrell Church of England Primary School and Pre-school

'The one who gets wisdom loves life.' Proverbs 19:8

Collective Worship Policy

Date:	October 2026	**Review Date:**	October 2027

Charlton Mackrell C of E Primary School is a place of learning where all are nurtured and supported. Charlton Mackrell has high expectations of all, so everyone can fulfil their potential. Following the example of Jesus, we love life by showing friendship to all, trust each other and value everyone's unique contribution.

Introduction

Our collective worship policy strengthens and supports the Christian identity of our school, reaffirms our values and celebrates the central role that each child plays in their community. Our worship reflects the values of the Church of England and will recognise and follow the Christian liturgical year.

Collective worship in Charlton Mackrell School has:

- A pivotal place in the life of the school.
- Supports pupils and adults in their spiritual growth including times of reflection.
- The opportunity for the school's vision to be unpacked and explored so that the whole school community is challenged and engaged with the teachings of Jesus and the Bible.
- An experience of worship that will offer opportunities for those present to observe and/or respond to the presence, power and peace of God as understood by Christians. This will always be invitational, offering an opportunity to take part whilst allowing the freedom for those of other faiths and none to be present with integrity.
- An opportunity for pupils to develop their understanding of the Trinitarian nature of God in Christian belief.
- A variety of different opportunities for reflection, understanding of diverse liturgical traditions, participation, challenge and enjoyment where all present can be actively involved and develop their own spirituality whilst contributing to the communal journey.
- A place for children to become familiar with Christian language and symbolism and the cycle of the Church year so that they are offered a pattern of meanings and a framework into which they can begin to integrate experience.
- A variety of ways of praying, giving children the opportunity to form their own prayers using multi-sensory foci and introduce them to some well-known Christian prayers, as well as a variety of prayers of thanksgiving before mealtimes and home time.
- Opportunities for all children and staff to develop their skills in planning, leading and evaluating the impact of school worship with the support and shared engagement of the local

church community. Pupils will be at the centre of this process taking on increasingly independent roles in planning and leading worship.

- Materials and themes for worship that are carefully selected to make sure pupils understand the work of Christians and the church locally, nationally and globally and how this reflects the teachings of the Bible and the example of Jesus.

Implementation

Collective worship is a legal requirement in accordance with the Education Reform Act 1988, each school must provide a broadly Christian act of collective worship for all pupils every day.

- Collective worship is predominantly whole school, but there is class collective worship each Wednesday, to allow the children an opportunity to explore their thoughts and ideas in a smaller setting.
- Our acts of worship are either held in the beautiful St Mary's Church, our school hall or in classrooms. There is always a focal point for reflection with a special cloth and candle. Quiet music is played as the children enter and leave collective worship. The atmosphere for worship is created using:
  The liturgical colours of the seasons of the Church Year,
  Christian signs and symbols, candles, music, a focal point,
  Ritual and liturgical responses,
  An outdoor area e.g. our peace garden, the local church, reflection area.
- Collective worship takes place at 9.00am each day including 'Open the Book' celebration at St Mary's
- Worship is also celebrated through song once a week.

Leadership

- Our daily worship is led by the children, the teaching staff, Open the Book team, visitors and the headteacher.

- Our code of conduct is shared with visitors.

Planning

- The headteacher and senior teacher, alongside other staff and children plan the collective worship in line with guidance from the Church of England Education Office.
- The children lead an act of worship once a week and take a major role in the festival celebrations. All the main Christian festivals are celebrated throughout the year.
- The Christian values of our school are expressed and celebrated through collective worship.
- Explicit links are made between Bible stories and the Christian values of the school.
- Our worship reflects Anglican tradition.

- The range and variety of materials used include: websites, artefacts, stories, drama scripts, artwork, music, songs, film clips, focal points e.g. a picture or candle.
- Opportunities are provided for children and adults to explore faith in today's world.
- The Christian belief in the Trinitarian nature of God is explored.
- There is daily stillness, reflection and prayer time before lunch to nurture spiritual growth for all members of our community. This time has a focus on exploring individual spirituality through the 'Mirrors, Windows, Doors' model.
- No Outsiders materials provide collective worship which looks at diversity.

Roles and Responsibilities

- The governing body and ethos committee oversee the collective worship throughout the school.
- The headteacher and the senior teacher plan the collective worship based on our school vision, the values from Roots and Fruits, the main Christian festivals and local themes.
- The Open the Book team support weekly worship and our church services recognise the main Christian festivals.
- Teaching and support staff support, embrace and join in with the acts of worship.
- Pupils are expected to open mindedly listen and/ or actively engage in collective worship.
- Parents and carers are welcomed and encouraged to support the Christian ethos of the school and are invited to celebration praise, Open the Book and other church services.
- Visitors should be sympathetic and respectful of our Christian values. They are informed of the code of conduct for collective worship.

Staff development and training

We ensure that all staff, including support staff, receive appropriate training and opportunities for professional development, both as individuals and as groups or teams.
The staff have received training from the Bath and Wells Diocese.

Monitoring and evaluation

- Staff meetings are used to monitor the effectiveness of collective worship and discuss shared values.
- The children, staff, governors and parents are involved in monitoring and evaluating the impact of worship.
- Feedback from parents following church services help us improve our main church services.
- The children complete the evaluation and reflection book to enable staff to plan effective worship.
- Governors and parents share our worship and are asked to give feedback.

Parental Withdrawal

Worship is regarded as a special time which wholly reflects our ethos as a church school. Part of the distinctively Christian nature of Church of England Schools is that they should be as hospitable and inclusive to all in the community. As collective worship occupies such a central place in the life of our Church school, this should be made clear on induction, and it is hoped that parents will be making a specific choice of the school knowing that the distinctive ethos will determine a Christian tradition within collective worship.

We respect the right of parents to withdraw their child/ children from all or part of collective worship. However, as collective worship is central to our ethos, we would appreciate the opportunity to discuss this decision with parents.

We recognise that all pupils are equal regardless of cultural or ethnic background, religion, social circumstances, gender, sexual orientation or disability. The curriculum and whole ethos of the school demonstrates that diversity is understood, is welcomed and appreciated within our school. Equal opportunities means that all children have the right to a broad and balanced curriculum with which all pupils can engage and achieve.

Disseminating the policy

We ensure that this policy is known to all staff and governors, parents and carers and, as appropriate, to all pupils. This policy is available on our school website.

Headteacher signed: Alison Allen Date: October 2026

Chair of Governors signed: Rosie Dawson Date: October 2026