



Leeming St John's CE Primary School
Leeming Lane,
Leeming Bar,
Northallerton,
North Yorkshire, DL7 9AU

Collective Worship Policy (July 2026)

Introduction

At Leeming St John's CE Primary School, we are committed to nurturing every child as a unique individual, enabling them to flourish and achieve their very best within a caring, inclusive school family. We seek to create a community where everyone is valued, supported and experiences a deep sense of belonging.

Our vision, **"Together we love, learn, grow and wonder,"** is at the heart of all we do and is lived out daily through collective worship. It reflects our belief that every person is made in the image of God and is called to live in loving community with others.

Through collective worship we encourage all members of our school community to:

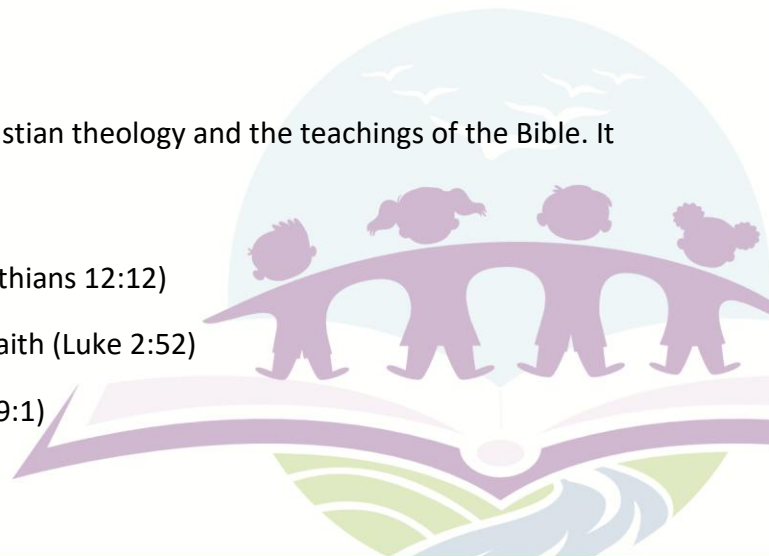
- **Love** by following the example of Jesus through kindness, compassion, forgiveness and inclusion.
- **Learn** by embracing curiosity, striving for excellence and recognising the gifts God has given us.
- **Grow** by developing confidence, resilience and character within a supportive Christian community.
- **Wonder** by exploring God's world with awe and curiosity, reflecting deeply on life and celebrating creation.

Collective worship is central to the life of our school. It provides opportunities for pupils and adults to grow spiritually, develop morally and emotionally, strengthen our shared Christian vision and celebrate our life together.

Theological Foundation

Our approach to collective worship is rooted in Christian theology and the teachings of the Bible. It reflects:

- God's love for all people (John 13:34)
- The value of belonging to one body (1 Corinthians 12:12)
- The importance of growing in wisdom and faith (Luke 2:52)
- Awe and wonder in God's creation (Psalm 19:1)



Collective worship offers opportunities for these beliefs to be encountered, explored and reflected upon in ways that are meaningful and appropriate for all ages.

Legal Status

As a Voluntary Controlled Church of England School:

- Collective worship is a statutory requirement.
- An act of collective worship is provided daily for all pupils.
- Worship is distinctly Christian in character and reflects the traditions of the Church of England.
- Worship is planned to be inclusive, invitational and inspirational, following Church of England guidance
- Collective worship is an inclusive experience that welcomes everyone while respecting individual beliefs.

Parents and carers have the legal right to withdraw their child from collective worship. Alternative supervision will be provided where appropriate. We encourage families considering withdrawal to discuss their concerns with the Headteacher to gain a fuller understanding of the nature of collective worship within our school.

Staff also have the right to withdraw on grounds of conscience.

Aims of Collective Worship

Collective worship aims to contribute to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development of all pupils and adults by:

- enabling worship of God
- developing understanding of Christian beliefs and values
- deepening understanding of our school vision and Christian ethos
- encouraging reflection on spiritual and moral issues
- fostering a sense of belonging and community
- providing opportunities for prayer, stillness and reflection
- celebrating achievement and giving thanks
- exploring the teachings of Jesus and the Bible
- encouraging respect for people of all faiths and none
- inspiring pupils to live out our vision in their daily lives
- providing a foundation for lifelong spiritual development.



At Leeming St John's, we believe that spirituality is the ongoing journey of discovering who we are, growing in our relationship with God, with others, with ourselves and with the world around us. It is nurtured through moments of awe and wonder, reflection, prayer, creativity, challenge and service, enabling everyone to flourish and live life in all its fullness. We intend for collective worship to play an important role in developing this.

Principles of Collective Worship

Our collective worship is:

Inclusive

Everyone is welcomed and valued regardless of faith, background or belief. Worship creates a safe environment where all members of the school community can engage respectfully.

Invitational

Participation in acts such as prayer or reflection is always an invitation rather than an expectation. Everyone is encouraged to reflect in a way that is personally meaningful.

Inspirational

Collective worship seeks to inspire and challenge pupils and adults through Christian teaching, encouraging positive attitudes, compassionate action and personal growth.

Structure and Content

Collective worship follows a clear structure, typically including:

- gathering
- engaging with the theme
- reflection
- prayer
- sending out
- an opportunity or activity for children to engage with throughout the week.

Planning ensures progression and includes:

- Bible stories and Christian teaching
- exploration of our school vision and values
- Christian values
- major festivals including Harvest, Advent, Christmas, Easter and Pentecost
- the Church's liturgical year
- local, national and global events
- opportunities to celebrate school achievements.

Worship uses a wide variety of approaches including:

- music and singing
- storytelling
- drama



- visual symbols
- silence and reflection
- pupil participation
- prayers written by pupils and adults
- Christian symbols and artefacts
- Child-friendly liturgy.

Our collective worship is structured in the following way throughout the week:

Day	Structure
Monday	We use the Guildford Diocese collective worship resources. These have a termly theme. They include stories from the Bible. They include a focus on a Christian value. These also include the weekly activity for children to interact with throughout the week. We use our growing knowledge and understanding to unpick and reflect the teaching from the story and how we can all take something from it in order to help us grow. We also reflect on how this fits with our school vision and what this can look like in practice.
Tuesday	We use the Picture News worship resources. The theme of this is linked to the themes of our RE Understanding Christianity units and are referenced alongside the Big Freeze in order to contextualise understanding for the children. We also discuss the British Value and Protected characteristic link to the theme too.
Wednesday	This collective worship is led by one of the local churches.
Thursday	Set out in the Guildford Diocese collective worship planning, 1 – 2 songs are selected which link to the weekly theme. These are then taught during this session. Singing brings our school together to celebrate and worship through song and praise.
Friday	Every Friday we come together to celebrate the week. Children receive certificates for great examples on how they have ‘lived’ our school vision.

Collective Worship in Practice

Collective worship may take place in:

- the school hall
- classrooms
- outdoor learning spaces
- St John's Church.

To promote a calm and reflective atmosphere:

- members of the Collective Worship Team ring the Tibetan singing bowl to signal the start of worship
- reflective music is played as pupils enter and leave



- the Worship Team prepares and dresses the worship table or altar – this includes using the correct colours linked to the liturgical calendar
- worship begins with a shared welcome and opening
- worship concludes with a sending out before the Worship Team clears away resources
- changing the weekly activity that children are encouraged to engage with.

Collective responses, prayers and moments of stillness help pupils engage thoughtfully with worship. In addition, there is also an activity set where children can engage with the theme throughout the week. This is then reviewed at the start of the following week. This activity encourages children to respond to courageous advocacy, justice, compassion and service for example.

Leadership of Collective Worship

Collective worship is led by a variety of people including:

- the Headteacher
- teaching staff
- pupils
- clergy
- church representatives
- visitors from the wider Christian community.

This shared leadership reflects our belief that worship belongs to the whole school community.

Pupil Leadership

Pupils play an active role through the Collective Worship Team.

Children from Key Stage 2 are invited to become Worship Team members and receive a badge recognising their role. Approximately three pupils serve each day on a rota.

Responsibilities include:

- preparing the worship space
- leading the opening and closing of worship
- reading prayers and Bible passages
- dressing the altar
- supporting acts of worship
- writing prayers and reflections
- contributing ideas for future worship
- evaluating worship.



These opportunities develop leadership, confidence, responsibility and spiritual awareness. Children use the following liturgy for the opening and sending out:

Opening

Leader: Welcome to our worship time.

Leader: As we take out the Bible, we think about God the Father.

All: **Father, we are here. We are here for you.**

Leader: As we take out the cross, we think about God's Son, Jesus.

All: **Jesus, we are here. We are here for you.**

Leader: As we take out the candle and light it, we think about God the Holy Spirit.

All: **Spirit, we are here. We are here for you.**

Sending out

End:

All: **Father, as we go,**

Jesus, as we go,

Spirit, as we go,

Bless us all, as we go.

Partnership with Church and Community

Strong partnerships with our local churches enrich collective worship.

We enjoy close links with St Gregory's Church and St John's Church, where we hold special services. Clergy lead worship frequently within school and support the Christian life of the school. Ministers from other local churches also contribute to worship throughout the year.

Governors and members of the wider community are warmly welcomed to attend acts of collective worship.

Monitoring, Evaluation and Impact

Collective worship is monitored regularly by the Headteacher, governors and the Collective Worship Team.

Evaluation includes:

- observations
- pupil voice
- staff feedback
- governor monitoring
- review of worship planning
- evaluation by the Worship Team.

Monitoring considers how effectively worship:

- reflects our Christian vision
- supports spiritual development
- inspires pupils and adults
- develops Christian understanding
- promotes pupil leadership



- strengthens the life of the school community.

Findings are used to continually improve the quality and impact of collective worship.

Support for delivery of collective worship

Leeming St John's CE Primary School recognises the need for professional development of staff and children in the review and delivery of Collective Worship and will ensure that training is offered on both an individual and whole staff basis.

Review

This policy was agreed in July 2026. It will be reviewed on a biannual basis.

