



Salford Priors CofE Academy

Collective Worship Policy

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Introduction

At Salford Priors Church of England Academy, our vision is for every child and adult to be:

Rooted in love and faith ~ Growing in hope and courage ~ Thriving in light and harmony.

This vision, rooted in Ephesians 3:16–18, reminds us that when Christ dwells in our hearts, we are “rooted and grounded in love” and strengthened in faith. Inspired by this, our community seeks to live “life in all its fullness” (John 10:10). We strive to be a school where all feel welcome, safe, valued, and respected — a place of joy and belonging.

Collective Worship is central to our identity as a Church of England Academy. It provides time for the whole school to pause, reflect, and encounter God through prayer, praise, silence, and celebration. Worship inspires us, nurtures our spiritual growth, and strengthens our Christian vision and values.

Our Purpose

The purpose of Collective Worship at Salford Priors is to:

- **Foster** a growing relationship with God for children and adults alike.
- **Celebrate** our Christian vision and values in ways that inspire transformation.
- **Create** opportunities for awe, wonder, prayer, and reflection.
- **Deepen** our understanding of the life and teachings of Jesus.
- **Build** community, affirm identity, and encourage respect for diversity.

Our Christian Vision and Values

Our vision is rooted in St. Paul’s teaching in Ephesians 3:16–18, which speaks of grasping the breadth, depth, length and height of Christ’s love, and of being **rooted and grounded in love**.

“Be rooted in Christ.” – Ephesians 3:17

Love is the foundation of a Christian life. The presence of Christ in our hearts transforms how we think, act, and grow. We believe this deep, personal relationship with Christ is essential for lasting maturity, resilience, and joy.

Our theologically rooted vision drives everything we do, enabling us to live out our identity as a Church school.

Rooted, Growing, Thriving

- **Rooted** in love and faith
- **Growing** in hope and courage
- **Thriving** in light and harmony

This vision expresses our commitment that **everyone is valued, equipped, and inspired** to flourish — embracing both success and challenge — and living “life in all its fullness” (John 10:10).

It aligns with the Church of England’s Vision for Education: *Deeply Christian, serving the common good.*

Alongside these, we explore the twelve values of the *Roots and Fruits* programme — including Generosity, Compassion, Thankfulness, Perseverance, Trust, Justice, Service, and Truthfulness — so that pupils encounter a rich breadth of Christian teaching.

These values are not abstract: they are woven into the life of our school, celebrated in Collective Worship, and lived out daily in relationships and learning.

Underpinning Principles

Collective Worship at Salford Priors seeks to:

- **Remain** faithful to the Christian faith and Anglican tradition.
- **Be inclusive**, welcoming all pupils and staff regardless of background.
- **Encourage** participation, creativity, and personal response.
- **Develop** pupils’ spiritual, moral, social, and cultural understanding.
- **Celebrate** major Christian festivals, often at St. Matthew’s Church.
- **Provide** opportunities for silence, music, prayer, and drama.
- **Be inspiring** and transformational for both staff and pupils.

In line with the Church of England's Vision for Education, worship upholds the principles of **Wisdom, Hope, Community, and Dignity**.

Participation and Inclusivity

Worship is integral to daily school life. All pupils attend and are encouraged to take part in leadership, readings, drama, or music. Parents and carers are warmly invited to join our Friday Celebration Worship and special services throughout the year.

Parents retain the right to withdraw their children from Collective Worship. If this is requested, a meeting will be held with the Head Teacher to discuss alternative arrangements. Staff may also request not to lead worship with the agreement of the Head Teacher.

The Shape of Collective Worship

Collective Worship may take place as:

- Whole-school gatherings in the hall.
- Class-based worship, including Forest School and outdoor reflections.
- Services at St. Matthew's Church (Harvest, Christingle, Easter, etc.).

A typical act of worship will include:

- Lighting of the Trinity candle.
- A Biblical reading, story, or theme linked to our vision and values.
- Opportunities for response (reflection, prayer, discussion, or music).
- Singing or listening to hymns and songs of worship.
- Time for awe, wonder, and silence.

Planning and Delivery

Worship follows a two-year cycle of themes based on our Christian vision and values. Additional themes may be introduced to address current issues or pastoral needs.

Worship is led by the Head Teacher, staff, pupils, and visiting contributors including:

- The Reverend and ministry team of St. Matthew's Church.
- Open the Book team (monthly).
- Parents, governors, and community visitors.

A variety of resources and approaches are used — Bible readings, storytelling, drama, art, music, and prayer — to engage children and encourage creativity.

Roles and Responsibilities

The Head Teacher is the overall coordinator of Collective Worship. Responsibilities include:

- Ensuring the vision and values are reflected in worship.
- Managing and monitoring the worship rota.
- Supporting staff and pupils in leading worship.
- Working with St. Matthew's Church, the Diocese, and the Multi Academy Trust.
- Evaluating impact and seeking continuous improvement.

Conclusion

Collective Worship at Salford Priors C of E Academy is the heartbeat of our school. It affirms our Christian foundation, strengthens our vision, and provides space for every member of our community to be rooted, to grow, and to thrive.

“May Christ dwell in your hearts through faith, so that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend.” – Ephesians 3:17