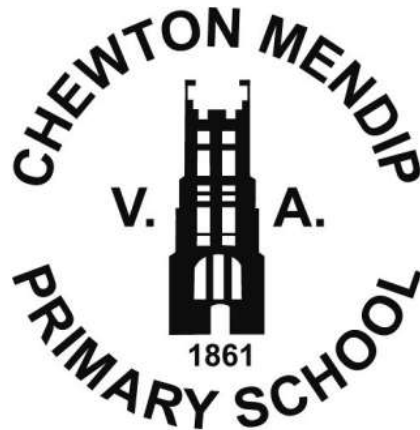


Chewton Mendip Church of England
Voluntary Aided Primary School



Collective Worship Policy

Approved by: FGB June 2026

Last reviewed on: June 2026

Next review due by: June 2027

Collective Worship Policy

“The seed fell into good ground and grew up increasing and yielding thirty, sixty and a hundred times as much” Mark 4:8 (Parable of the Sower)

We strive to be that ‘good ground’ where our children can grow in knowledge, skills and wisdom, with hope, aspiration, dignity and respect. Our ambition is that they can thrive and contribute to their communities and live well together. We embrace the Church of England’s vision for education that all children will have “life in all its fullness” (John 10:10)

At our school we are committed to promoting a caring and supportive environment where everyone feels safe, secure and respected, where we are all “Growing together.”

This Policy relates to the whole school including the Early Years Foundation Stage and is reviewed annually to ensure compliance with current regulations and law.

Context

We are a small rural Voluntary Aided (VA) Church of England Primary school. We recognise the variety of religious and non-religious backgrounds our pupils come from and welcome diversity. We recognise the inter-relationship between pupils’ spiritual, moral, social and cultural development, and the leading role in which the collective worship plays in these areas.

Collective Worship in a Church school should enable every child and adult to flourish and to live life in all its fullness. (John 10:10). It will help educate wisdom, knowledge and skills, hope and aspiration, dignity and respect, and develop community and understanding of living well together.

Policy Statement

Our school’s vision and values are central to the life of the school. Collective worship is the main platform for exploring the school’s vision. It is well planned and of high quality so that the whole school community is engaged on a journey of discovery, exploring the teachings of Jesus and the Bible.

At Chewton Mendip CofE Primary collective worship aims to be inspirational, invitational and inclusive and will lead people to a threshold where they can witness worship and join in, if they wish. Through Collective Worship pupils will be offered a space and a place for the telling of the Christian story. They will be offered an understanding of worship through being invited to participate in or observe prayer, reading and reflection on the Bible. Pupils will be given time to consider their responsibilities to others and to grow in love and service. Time will be given for celebration, both for the children’s accomplishments and to mark the seasonal festivals of the Christian calendar. Pupils will be offered time to be able to reflect and develop spiritually.

Legal Requirements

There must be a daily act of collective worship in all maintained schools for all pupils, other than those in a nursery class or a nursery school. This can take place at any time in the school day and in any groupings. Collective worship in a Church of England School must be in accordance with the tenets and practices of the Church of England. The law on collective worship applies “that it should be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character”.

The governing body of the school has the responsibility for ensuring that the school meets the requirements for worship detailed in the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Evaluation Document. They are also tasked with monitoring and evaluating the impact of worship on the school community in consultation with the headteacher.

Guiding Principles

Collective worship at Chewton Mendip aims to:

- Support pupils and adults in their spiritual growth

- Provide an experience of worship that will offer opportunities for those present to observe and reflect. This will always be invitational, offering an opportunity to take part whilst allowing freedom for those of other faiths and none to be present with integrity.
- Provide a variety of different opportunities for reflection
- Help 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.
- Explore a variety of ways of praying, giving children the opportunity to form their own prayers.

Development of the policy and links to other policies and documentation

We ensure that the principles for collective worship are reflected and applied in our policies and practice including those that are concerned with:

- Children's personal development and wellbeing
- PSHE
- Behaviour
- Working in partnership with parents, carers and guardians
- Working with the wider community and church

What is Collective Worship?

Collective Worship is an educational activity or experience

- To which all can contribute
- From which all can gain

It is central to education in our school and forms an essential part of the school's overall provision for prayer and worship. Collective Worship in our school respects the diversity of belief and commitment, but it is Christian in character, reflecting in the liturgical tradition of the Church and having Christ at its heart.

Aims

The aim of collective worship in our school is best characterised by the above statements. We seek to provide opportunities, formally and informally, for children, staff and sometimes parents, to worship together. Children are encouraged to participate and respond, either actively in the presentation of worship or by listening and joining in the celebration.

Organisation

All children will celebrate an act of collective worship each day; generally, there will be three occasions each week when larger groups, usually the whole school, will gather to worship.

Whole School Collective Worship will normally take place in the school hall or at St. Mary Magdelene Church (Chewton Mendip) where the whole family of our school can 'grow together' spiritually. Each class takes it in turn to lead us in worship in the church once a term where we explore our school parable and bible teachings related to our school values.

The whole school share collective worship spiritually through worship, songs and praise. We also love to come together as a whole school and with the wider community several times across the year. The children are encouraged to contribute and share their own prayers.

Weekly Collective Worship

Monday	Growing Together- Understanding our school parable, values and our place in the world
Tuesday	Singing
Wednesday	Class worship
Thursday	Growing Together- Understanding our school parable, values and our place in the world
Friday	Celebration of achievements

- Children enter to music
- The candle is lit with the words "The light of Christ." The congregation responds, "Thanks be to God."
- The theme for the collective worship is introduced and explored. Congregation are invited to contribute.
- Time for self-reflection- What does this mean for/ to me in my life?
- Congregation are invited to join in prayers and reflection.
- The candle is extinguished with the words "Peace be with you". The congregation responds, "And also with you."
- Children leave the hall to music.

St Mary Magdalene Church

Autumn 1	Harvest Buzzards Class
Autumn 2	Remembrance Carol Service Christmas Service
Spring 1	Easter Woodpecker class
Spring 2	Owl class
Summer 1	Robins Class
Summer 2	Transition to secondary Moving up at Wells Cathedral Leavers Service

Managing the right to withdraw

Within our community, there may be children whose families are members of another faith, or who hold a non-religious world view. The 1944 and 1988 Education Acts state that parents have the right to withdraw children from collective worship and suitable arrangements should be made to accommodate these children. There is an expectation that parents wishing to request a withdrawal will meet with the headteacher to discuss their concerns and requirements.