



Our Vision

Believe & Achieve

“If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer.” Matthew 21:22

Collective Worship at Claypole Church of England Primary School (2025-2026)

Our Collective Worship at Claypole Church of England Primary School reflect our religious and cultural learning, our Christian values, our ethos & theologically rooted vision. This includes national and internationally celebrated religious events, liturgical days and other notable national/international days/events.

We are lucky to be joined by local church representatives for Collective Worship. We also have an extended Junior Leadership Team (Pupil Parliament) with a committee of children responsible for planning, preparing, delivering and evaluating Collective Worship.

Monday	Whole School Collective Worship
Tuesday	Whole School Collective & Choral Worship
Wednesday	Whole School Collective Worship (also available on our YouTube channel)
Thursday	Whole School Collective Worship
Friday	Whole School Celebrations

Collective Worship is planned and focuses on a different Christian value each half term. Additionally, Collective Worship at Claypole Church of England Primary School recognises the need to respond to and discuss world events as they occur.

Promoting British Values at Claypole Church of England Primary School

We have planned to focus on 'what it means to be British' through recognition and celebration of fundamental British values: democracy (local, national and international), the rule of law, mutual respect, individual liberty and tolerance of different faiths and cultures.

The Legal Framework

The following is a brief summary of the legal requirements set out in the Education Reform Act 1988, together with interpretation offered in DCSF Circular 1/94 and subsequent acts:

Legal Requirements

1. DFES Circular 1/94 contains the current requirement for a daily act of collective worship, the majority of which should be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character that is "reflecting" the "broad traditions of Christian belief" without being denominationally biased (Education Reform Act 1988). However, head teachers must take into account the pupils' ages, aptitudes and family backgrounds.
2. This must be provided for all registered pupils of compulsory school age or above. The term 'registered pupils' includes those in the sixth form but not pupils in nursery schools or classes.
3. The act of collective worship can take place at any time during the school day and with any grouping of pupils the school wishes to use (though not faith groupings).
4. Parents in all schools have a legal right to withdraw their children wholly or partly from collective worship. Any such request must be complied with. (link – see Right of withdrawal, doc)
5. The Education and Inspection Act 2006 makes provision for pupils in post-16 education to exercise the right to withdraw themselves from the daily act of collective worship.
6. Teachers, including head teachers, have a contractual duty to attend assembly but they have the right to withdraw from collective worship and cannot be discriminated against for doing so.
7. If a school believes that the Christian character clause is inappropriate for the whole school or certain pupils within it, application can be made to the Lincolnshire Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) for a determination order to have the clause lifted or modified.
8. In a County school it is the responsibility of the head teacher, in consultation with the governors, to see that these arrangements are carried out. In a Voluntary school, it is the responsibility of the governors, in consultation with the head teacher.

What is Worship?

Whilst there is a legal requirement for schools to conduct a 'daily act of collective worship,' (The 1988 Education Act and subsequent Acts), none of this legislation actually defines what is meant by the term Collective Worship.

Our Collective Worship should recognise that the school community is a collection of people. Thus, acts of Collective Worship should be sensitive to the collective character of school and, to be inclusive, the term must be interpreted in a way which is meaningful to the range of communities we serve.

Therefore,

- The term "collective" when used in relation to worship in school refers to the gathering together of a school group or groups for worship; it does not in any way suggest an act of worship which involves a group meeting to subscribe to any particular faith or denomination of a faith.
- Collective worship does not pre-suppose shared beliefs, and should not seek uniform responses from pupils. Collective Worship caters for a diversity of beliefs and points of view, allowing individuals to respond as individuals.

A broad definition which has been referred to as 'worth-ship', might encompass what is offered in a spirit of admiration, celebration and respect to people of excellence, worthy of honour and by extension, to concepts, principles and conduct which are worthy of celebration, as examples of the highest achievements of the human spirit. Worship thus defined draws on literature, music, drama, art and other sources of inspiration. It can provide a focus for thought, inspiration and reflection for pupils (and staff) whose religious and cultural backgrounds are of any faith or none.

Worship of a Broadly Christian Character

The majority of our acts of Collective Worship must be of a 'broadly Christian character' as we are a Church of England school, and those that are will reflect the broad traditions of Christian belief and our Christian values (*refer to our themes*). The interpretation of this aspect of the law in paragraphs 60-63 of DCSF Circular 1/94 presents particular problems of application. Sensitivity to the faith background of pupils is enshrined in the law requiring all head teachers to have regard to family backgrounds, ages and aptitudes. Thus, when according special status to Jesus Christ, all pupils (whatever their beliefs) need to be respected. For example, it may be appropriate to tell stories of the

life and teachings of Jesus, but inappropriate for all pupils to be required to address Jesus directly in prayer.

In order to achieve an act of worship which meets legal requirements as well as educational principles and our Christian ethos, we may wish to concentrate on those characteristics which are shared by faiths as well as those which are specific to Christianity.

These include:

- that there is one God, a supreme spirituality, the source of all life who created the world and all that lies in and beyond it;
- that the nature of God may be found through love and selfless caring for others;
- that all relationships between human beings should be guided by love;
- that the spirit of love be used by those with power to value and care for the world and all that is in it.

“In this way, school acts of Collective Worship can become a purposeful collective spiritual experience which supports the ethos of the school.”

Claypole Church of England Primary School

Themes for Collective Worship

Planning our themes in advance gives opportunities for staff to plan well ahead and provides a coherent framework for the year. By setting themes in advance, genuine links can be made with religious festivals, school events, national and international occasions, social, moral, spiritual and cultural development and the whole curriculum. Knowing themes in advance gives staff and pupils alike the opportunity to participate more fully in both planning and presentation.



<i>Autumn</i>	<i>Spring</i>	<i>Summer</i>
Responsibility Taking responsibility for our actions and learning.	Justice Understanding that we are all created equal with different strengths and different things to learn.	Resilience Working hard to achieve something worthwhile, not giving up even when it's tough.
Kindness & Compassion Understanding how other people might feel and do all we can to help.	Understanding Listening to other people's ideas, beliefs and opinions and not judging them.	Commitment Learning about the importance of committing to loving and serving.
Truth Valuing the truth, being honest with each other and with ourselves.	Thankfulness Appreciating all that we have been given, thanking others and being generous.	Discipline (and 'Spirit of Service') An exercise in well-being and taking care of important aspects of life.
Koinonia	Respect	Excellence
Co-operation Fostering the ability to work together where unity thrives.	Humility Knowing who we are, being modest and willing to put others first.	Courage Having an openness to try new things and face challenges bravely and with self-control.
Forgiveness & reconciliation Learning what it means to be forgiven and choosing to let go of the things people do and say that hurt us.	Awareness (and 'Spirit of Service') Developing an understanding and recognition of spiritual truths and moral principles.	Creativity Thinking of new ideas and making them happen in lots of ways.
Self-Control (and 'Spirit of Service') Developing the ability to regulate one's emotions, thoughts, and behaviours.	Identity Fostering a sense of worth and purpose; and encouraged to see themselves as loved and valued.	Aspiration Having a dream, a goal or ambition to become the best we can, and all that we were created to be.

AUTUMN TERM 1

CHRISTIAN VALUE KOINONIA	MAJOR CHRISTIAN FESTIVALS	MAJOR SAINTS DAYS	FESTIVAL DAYS OF OTHER FAITHS	OTHER ANNIVERSARIES & KEY DATES
<p>4th September Koinonia (belonging & relationship)</p> <p>8th September Koinonia (belonging & relationships)</p> <p>15th September Responsibility (inc. British Value of Democracy)</p> <p>22nd September Responsibility (inc. British Value of Individual Liberty)</p> <p>29th September Kindness</p> <p>6th October Compassion</p> <p>13th October Honesty</p> <p>20th October Truth</p>	<p>14th Elevation of the Life Giving Cross (Holy Cross)</p> <p>27th Christ the King</p> <p>29th Michaelmass (St Michael & All Angels)</p> <p>Late Sept/Early October: <u>Harvest</u></p>	<p>September 8th Birth of Virgin Mary</p> <p>14th Holy Cross Day</p> <p>21st Matthew, Apostle & Evangelist</p> <p>October 4th Francis of Assisi (Patron Saint of Animals)</p> <p>9th Robert Grosseteste (Bishop of Lincoln 1253)</p> <p>18th Luke the Evangelist (patron saint of artists...)</p> <p>23rd St James of Jerusalem</p>	<p>September <u>Hindu:</u> Janamashtami Ganesh Chaturhi <u>Jewish:</u> Rosh Hashanah <u>Islam:</u> Prophets journey to Jerusalem & ascension (1st: New Year)</p> <p>October <u>Buddhist:</u> Kathina Day <u>Islam:</u> Ramaden starts <u>Jewish:</u> (5th – 11th) Sukkot 27th <u>Hindu, Sikh, Jain:</u> Diwali</p>	<p>September 6th First day at school (new beginnings)</p> <p>15th International Day of Democracy</p> <p>16th Ozone Layer</p> <p>21st World Gratitude Day</p> <p>October 5th International Teacher's Day 6th William Tyndale (translator of the Scriptures) 10th World Mental Health Day 16th World Food Day 24th United Nations Day</p>

AUTUMN TERM 2

HALF TERMLY CHRISTIAN VALUE <i>Koinonia</i>	MAJOR CHRISTIAN FESTIVALS	MAJOR SAINTS DAYS	FESTIVAL DAYS OF OTHER FAITHS	OTHER ANNIVERSARIES & KEY DATES
<p>3rd November Self-Control (inc. <i>making good Choices & the British Value of 'Rule of Law'</i>)</p> <p>10th November Remembrance</p> <p>17th November Forgiveness & reconciliation (inc. <i>tolerance & understanding</i>)</p> <p>24th November Forgiveness & reconciliation (inc. <i>tolerance & Understanding... and the British Value of Mutual Respect</i>)</p> <p>1st December Advent</p> <p>8th December Co-operation</p> <p>15th December Seeing the light: "I am the Light of the world..."</p>	<p>November 1st All Saints Day</p> <p>Remembrance Day (11th Nov)</p> <p>24th Christ the King</p> <p>December 1st Advent starts</p> <p>24th Christmas Eve, 25th Christmas Day</p>	<p>November 2nd Commemoration of the Faithful Departed (All Soul's Day)</p> <p>29th Thanksgiving for the Missionary Work of the Church</p> <p>30th St Andrews</p> <p>December 6th St. Nicholas</p> <p>21st St Thomas the Apostle</p>	<p>Oct 31st All Hallows Eve</p> <p>November 12th Nov Hindu: Diwali Sikh: Diwali & birthday of Guru Nanak</p> <p>December 8th Buddhist: Bohdi Day 23-30 Jewish: Hannukah</p>	<p>November 5th Guy Fawkes</p> <p>6th William Temple (Archbishop of Canterbury 1944)</p> <p>11th – 15th National AntiBullying Week</p> <p>13th World Kindness Day</p> <p>14th World Philosophy Day</p> <p>17th World Philosophy Day</p> <p>19th World Toilet Day</p> <p>29th Giving Tuesday</p> <p>30th Computer Security Day</p> <p>December 1st World AIDS Day</p> <p>10th Human Rights Day</p>

SPRING TERM 1

HALF TERMLY CHRISTIAN VALUE Respect	MAJOR CHRISTIAN FESTIVALS	MAJOR SAINTS DAYS	FESTIVAL DAYS OF OTHER FAITHS	OTHER ANNIVERSARIES & KEY DATES
<p>6th January Respect (linked also to British Values)</p> <p>12th January Justice (personal justice... inc. fairness)</p> <p>19th January Social justice (speaking up for others i.e. Suffragettes...)</p> <p>26th January Global justice (inc. Fair-trade & climate action)</p> <p>2nd February Awareness: making choices & decisions</p> <p>9th February Lent</p>	<p>January 7th Orthodox (Feast of Nativity)</p> <p>12th Baptism of Lord Jesus</p> <p>18th- 25th Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (John 11:26 <i>“Do you believe this?”</i>)</p> <p>February 2nd Presentation of Christ in the Temple (Candlemas)</p>	<p>January 6th Epiphany (Three Kings’ Day)</p>	<p>14th January <u>Buddhism</u> Mahayana New Year</p> <p>12th February <u>Jewish</u>: Tu B’Shevat (Arbor Day)</p> <p>15th <u>Buddhism</u> Nirvana Day</p>	<p>January 19th World Religion Day 20th Martin Luther King Day 25th Burns Night 27th National Holocaust Day 29th Chinese New Year</p> <p>February 8th Family Day</p> <p>14th Safer Internet Day 14th St Valentine’s Day</p>

SPRING TERM 2

HALF TERMLY CHRISTIAN VALUE Respect	MAJOR CHRISTIAN FESTIVALS	MAJOR SAINTS DAYS	FESTIVAL DAYS OF OTHER FAITHS	OTHER ANNIVERSARIES & KEY DATES
<p>23rd February Understanding</p> <p>2nd March Understanding (inc. British Value of tolerance)</p> <p>9th March Thankfulness</p> <p>16th March Thankfulness</p> <p>23rd March Humility (inc. equality racism, sustainability etc)</p> <p>30th March Palm Sunday & Easter</p>	<p>4th March Shrove Tuesday</p> <p>5th March Ash Wednesday (start of Lent – until 17th April)</p>	<p>March 1st St David (Wales)</p> <p>17th St. Patrick (Ireland)</p> <p>19th Joseph of Nazareth</p> <p>25th Annunciation of Jesus Christ</p> <p>Maundy Thursday: 2nd April; Good Friday: 3rd April; Easter Sunday: 5th April</p>	<p>13/14th March <u>Jewish</u>: Purim</p> <p>14-16th <u>Sikh</u>: Holla Mahalla</p> <p>29th Hindu: New Year</p> <p>30/31st Eid-al-Fitr</p>	<p>February 24th International Stand Up to Bullying Day</p> <p>March 5th World Day of Prayer 6th World Book Day 8th International Women’s Day</p> <p>21st International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination 21st World Poetry Day 21st First Day of Spring 22nd World Water Day</p> <p>April 1st All Fools Day</p>

SUMMER TERM 1

HALF TERMLY CHRISTIAN VALUE Excellence	MAJOR CHRISTIAN FESTIVALS	MAJOR SAINTS DAYS	FESTIVAL DAYS OF OTHER FAITHS	OTHER ANNIVERSARIES & KEY DATES
<p>21st April Preparation <i>("Excellence is a habit...")</i></p> <p>27th April Resilience</p> <p>4th May Commitment: Success and Failure (courage & encouragement)</p> <p>11th May Commitment: Success and Failure (courage & encouragement)</p> <p>18th May Inspiring others</p>	<p>May 10th – 16th Christian Aid Week</p> <p>29th Ascension Day</p>	<p>April 23rd St. George (England)</p> <p>25th Mark the Evangelist (patron of Barristers)</p> <p>May 1st Philip & James (Apostles)</p> <p>14th St. Matthias (patron of carpenters)</p>	<p>April <u>Jewish: 11th-18th</u> Passover <u>Sikh:</u> Baisakhi <u>Hindu:</u> Hanuman Jayanti <u>Islam:</u> Isra & Mi'raj</p> <p>May <u>Islam:</u> Prophet Muhammad's birthday <u>Jewish:</u> Shavuot</p>	<p>April 7th World Health Day</p> <p>April 25th Shakespeare's birthday</p> <p>May 8th Time of Remembrance & Reconciliation for Those Who Lost Their Lives during WW2. 8th Red Cross Day 15th International Day of Families 21st World Telecommunication & Information Society Day</p>

SUMMER TERM 2

HALF TERMLY CHRISTIAN VALUE CONTENTMENT	MAJOR CHRISTIAN FESTIVALS	MAJOR SAINTS DAYS	FESTIVAL DAYS OF OTHER FAITHS	OTHER ANNIVERSARIES & KEY DATES
WEEKLY THEME (week beginning)				
1st June Discipline				June 5th World Environment Day
8th June Discipline	June 8th Pentecost			
15th June Creativity	15th Trinity Sunday 15th Father's Day	June 11th Barnabas	June 12th Buddhist: Wesak	June 12th Anne Frank Day
22nd June Creativity		24th John the Baptist birthday		20th World Refugee Day
29th June Courage				
6th July Courage				4th July Independence Day (USA)
13th July Aspiration				11th World Population Day
20th July Aspirations: Moving on & challenges				August 13th Florence Nightingale

Good Practice at Claypole Church of England Primary School

The following are features of good practice:

- Opening with a question displayed on the way into Collective Worship to quietly reflect on [within the term/week's theme];
- Clear intentions shared;
- Suitable timings at appropriate point in the school day;
- A variety of opportunity for interactivity;
- Wide staff and pupil involvement no matter what their personal beliefs;
- Use of visitors;
- Substantial forward planning in terms of themes, leaders, curriculum connections etc;
- Appropriate resources;
- A time of quiet for personal reflection/worship;
- Having guidance for visiting speakers;
- Contributes to & complements the whole school vision;
- A variety of methods/approaches to delivering Collective Worship (inc. sharing worship with the community).

Acts of Collective Worship should:

- Not be over-dominated by school administration;
- Not be over-moralising.

Objectives and Methods

Ideally school Collective Worship should encompass all aspects of school life and all areas of the curriculum so that every member of staff and every pupil may feel involved. It must both reflect and nurture the whole ethos & vision of the school. In particular, it develops the feeling of belonging to a community which is essential for personal development and spiritual growth.

We respond positively to our own particular needs and see it as an educational opportunity with clear objectives where we can also:

- show interest in and concern for members of the school community;
- celebrate special occasions together;
- show concern for the daily happenings in school life, the local community and wider world;

- share appreciation of worthwhile activities undertaken by groups within the school;
- explore and review the variety of values, attitudes and standards manifested in society;
- reflect upon dimensions of human life, the wonderful, beautiful, joyful, heroic, humorous, tragic, ugly, sorrowful, solemn...

...a range of methods including:

- Pupils' contributions (inc. planning/preparing, leading & evaluating);
- Stories/readings/video and/or film;
- Performance;
- Prayer/meditation/reflection;
- Songs/hymns/music;
- Sacred/secular readings;
- Artefacts/natural materials;
- Visual aids/focal points;
- Dialogue;
- Creative silence/mindfulness (opportunity to 'be' with oneself).

Success Criteria

When we evaluate our Collective Worship against a stated criteria some of the suggested criteria are:

- Invitational
- Involvement, enjoyment, attention and reaction of pupils
- Progression of knowledge & awareness of faith
- Respect and tolerance
- Positive response to shared experience
- A sense of challenge
- An atmosphere which matches the theme
- A contribution to individual and community sense of well-being
- A sense of occasion
- Good order
- A place in the overall plan of the school
- Staff affirmation
- Enrichment of pupils' experience

Making Collective Worship Special at Claypole Church of England

Collective worship should exhibit certain characteristic elements. Generally pupils should be able to appreciate that this is a special time in the day. Some helpful strategies to ensure this include:

- Use of symbols to introduce and conclude the act of collective worship, e.g. lighting a candle, showing a special object, revealing or setting up a focal point etc
- A period of silence prior to and/or following the act of collective worship – a moment of quiet reflection
- A short piece of music to separate the act of collective worship from other school business
- A hymn/song
- A prayer

Useful websites for Collective Worship

<http://www.schoolassemblies.btinternet.co.uk/calendar.htm> - a useful month-by-month calendar of festivals from many different faiths with links to other useful information.

<http://www.assemblies.org.uk> - a great source of ideas for themes and activities for primary and secondary assemblies.

<http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/teachingandlearning/assemblies> - you can search for assemblies by theme, school type or year group.

<http://www.barnabasinschools.org.uk> - themed assemblies with Christian content.

<http://www.teachingideas.co.uk/more/assemblies/contents.htm> - suggestions from teachers on how to deliver creative and imaginative assemblies.

http://www.natsoc.org.uk/index_fsn.html - a regularly updated resource with assemblies on a Christian theme from the Culham Institute.

<http://www.reep.org/cw/index.php> - a website containing collective worship resources promoting the links between religion and environment.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/schoolradio/collectiveworship> - homepage of the collective worship resources from BBC radio.

http://www.primaryideas.co.uk/index_files/assemblies.html - scripts for individual year and whole school assemblies.

<http://www.humanism.org.uk/site/cms/contentViewArticle.asp?article=1341> - ideas for inclusive assemblies from the British Humanist Association