

# SPEEN CHURCH OF ENGLAND SCHOOL



## COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

**Issued: January 2026**

**Next Review: January 2027**

THEN CHRIST WILL MAKE HIS HOME IN YOUR HEARTS  
AS YOU TRUST IN HIM. YOUR ROOTS WILL GROW  
DOWN INTO GOD'S LOVE AND KEEP YOU STRONG.

- EPHESIANS 3:17 (NLT)

## INTRODUCTION

At Speen CE Infant School, our vision statement underpins all aspects of school life. As a voluntary aided Church of England school, we seek to live out the teaching of Jesus by valuing, upholding and nurturing the spiritual dimension of life in all that we do.

Collective Worship is central to the daily life of our school. It provides the heartbeat of our community, shaping our shared values and inspiring children and adults alike. Rooted in Anglican tradition and supported by our close partnership with St John's Parish Church, worship at Speen also recognises and celebrates the richness of our diverse school family. Our children and families come from a range of Christian denominations, other faith traditions, and non-religious worldviews, and we aim to provide worship that is welcoming, respectful and meaningful for all.

We actively welcome links with local churches and faith communities, and value their contribution to the spiritual and moral development of our pupils. These partnerships strengthen the school's Christian distinctiveness while fostering mutual respect and understanding across different beliefs and worldviews.

Our worship is invitational, inclusive and inspiring. It is an opportunity for the whole school family to come together in a spirit of community: to encounter and reflect on Christian teaching, to learn from the example of Jesus Christ, to pause for stillness and reflection, to give thanks, and to grow in love and respect for God, for one another, and for the wider world. Parents, carers, governors and friends of the school are warmly welcomed to worship, and are particularly invited to join church services and school celebrations.

## STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS

Collective worship at Speen CE Infant School complies with the requirements of the Education Act 1996, which states that all maintained schools shall provide a daily act of collective worship that is wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character.

Speen is a voluntary aided school and the legal basis for the provision of worship must reflect the purpose for which Church schools were established.

"The daily act of collective worship required by law in the school shall be consistent with the faith and practice of the Church of England and the basic curriculum required by law in the school shall include religious education consistent with the faith of the Church of England."

"Use should be made, within the provisions of the Education Acts for the time being in force, of the parish Church or other Church of England place of worship, both for occasional acts of collective worship and for religious education."

("Terms of Union" as stated by The National Society (Church of England) for promoting Religious Education)

While the school encourages all pupils to participate in collective worship, parents and carers have the legal right to withdraw their child, either wholly or in part. Where this occurs, the school will ensure that pupils are supervised appropriately and provided with a purposeful, respectful alternative that supports their spiritual and moral development.

## DEFINITION AND OVERALL AIM

Collective Worship is central to the life of our school and rooted in our Christian vision and values.

At Speen School we are a community that grows through our thirst for knowledge. We are all unique and together we flourish. From the roots of God's love for the world, our families and our community we strive to be caring, courageous, responsible, honest and respectful in all we do.

It offers a daily act of Christian worship for everyone in our community to pause, reflect, and grow together.

It creates space for personal reflection and spiritual growth for all where we explore ideas about meaning, purpose and how we treat one another.

It nurtures wisdom, hope, community and dignity, strengthening our shared identity and inspiring and encouraging everyone to live out our vision through compassion, respect and service to others.

Through stories, reflection, prayer, and shared values, pupils and adults encounter and explore the life and the teachings of Jesus Christ and consider how these inspire our actions and relationships while engaging with questions of meaning, purpose and responsibility.

## OBJECTIVES

Collective worship at Speen School will enable the whole school family to:

- Recognise that God is actively involved in all aspects of life.
- Acquire and develop knowledge and awareness of the love of God
- Worship reflects the rhythms of the Anglican Church year, including Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter, Pentecost and Harvest
- Support and underpin our school values and recognize and praise the achievements and talents of our school family
- Experience prayer, stillness, worship and reflection
- Develop an awareness of the fundamental questions raised by human experience and enable us to consider and reflect on spiritual and moral issues and our response to those
- Not only take part but develop pupils' leadership skills in activities such as worship, singing, prayer, bible readings and teachings to develop their sense of ownership and understanding (see Pupil Ownership paragraph below).
- Develop as a school family and community in our distinctive Christian character
- Share worship with governors, parents and the local community
- Feel safe, welcomed, valued and affirmed
- Value everyone's beliefs
- Explore their own beliefs
- Worship God on their own terms

## INCLUSIVE, INVITATIONAL AND INSPIRATIONAL

St Speen School, our worship is inclusive, invitational and inspiring in nature and we warmly invite everyone to join.

**Inclusive:**

We recognize and value the diversity of faith and worldviews in our school family and have created an atmosphere in school where everyone feels safe, welcomed and valued. In our worship, we explore relevant experiences and issues that we encounter in life in the context of our Christian vision and values. This contributes to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of our school family.

### **Invitational:**

We invite children to explore their own spirituality through music, prayer and reflection and foster an appreciation of our school and local environment, including forest school, and instill a shared responsibility of maintaining it. We actively pursue opportunities to enable children to advocate for the needs of others through supporting different charities in our local community and beyond. These opportunities encourage children to seek and explore their own responses and responsibilities in developing relevant and meaningful partnerships in the local community.

### **Inspirational:**

We promote our own Christian vision and values and enable everyone in our school family to reflect on the fundamental issues of life within this context. We develop our understanding of the Christian faith and Church of England practice through appropriate Biblical content and encounter and explore Jesus' teachings. In line with our inclusive principle, we include appropriate references to and elements of other faiths and worldviews as well. We are community-centered, looking for opportunities to work together with and support the local community for social justice. We celebrate the success and the wider achievements of the whole school family.

## **CONTENT**

An assembly at Speen School will always be Christian in foundation and character, while being inclusive, invitational and respectful of pupils and adults of all faiths, worldviews and none.

An assembly at Speen School will be Christian in nature and is likely to consist of opportunities;

- for prayer and creative silence
- to songs, music and singing
- to share stories that teach more about God, developing a sense of awe and wonder
- for reflection of spiritual or moral issues, teaching pupils a Biblical response by using a Bible verse or passage where possible
- to consider personal beliefs, values and responses
- to encourage commitment to one another, the school and its shared values

Teaching on the school's Christian values ([respect, honesty, courage, compassion responsibility and family](#)) is a key component of collective worship at Speen School. The process of worship takes place through a variety of media including song, story, video, drama, music, prayer, meditation and poetry.

Opportunities are also taken to link times of focus to

- any issues or matters that concern the assembled children
- key festivals within the Church's Year
- aspects / issues or experiences arising within the school, local, national or global communities
- celebrate corporate or individual successes, achievements, also taking time to praise pupils for demonstrating the school's values
- the current RE area of learning when appropriate

When an act of worship focuses on an extended time of singing, time will be given to reflect on the meanings of song lyrics and how they apply to those listening.

## SCHOOL ORGANISATION

Collective worship is timetabled each day for at least 15 minutes. Where events for classes make this difficult on any given day, a time for reflection is given utilising the Content elements listed above.

The Headteacher takes overall responsibility for collective worship and leads acts of worship as do the teachers.

Local ministers between them also lead a weekly act of worship. Visitors may be invited to host or be involved with school assemblies and on these occasions opportunity is taken to still maintain a spiritual focus.

## PUPIL OWNERSHIP

In addition, in order to facilitate pupil ownership and progression in development, children are expected to play an increasing role in collective worship in the following ways:

- When they first start school, to be part of the school **family**, listening and joining in where appropriate
- As they gain confidence, to actively participate in songs, stories, role play and drama, prayer and reflection, sharing readings or writings
- To take an increasing responsibility in the planning, leading or evaluating of acts of worship.

These are some examples of increasing opportunities for pupils to participate, contribute and lead as they progress through the school.

**Age 4-5:** saying own spontaneous prayers, join in with call and response phrases, say known collective prayers, begin to learn the Lord's Prayer. Take roles in assembly directed by a teacher.

Taking on an acting role, having short sentence readings in church, singing to or with a congregation.

**Age 6-7:** more confidence in saying their own spontaneous prayer, giving reasons for prayer requests, being able to form more detailed prayers like Teaspoon Prayers (TSP – Thank you, Sorry, Please).

Leading several celebrations in the Church Calendar e.g. Christmas, Easter and Harvest Festival service with readings, prayers, role play, drama or telling a story, singing solos, playing musical instruments or percussion.

## PRAYER TIMES IN CLASSROOMS

Teachers can invite pupils to pray whenever it is appropriate within their class situation e.g. before a meal time, at the end of the day, in response to class news and sharing etc. Children may offer or be encouraged to lead times of thanksgiving or praying for issues that are of concern to pupils in their class. Different topic areas in the curriculum may also give opportunities for prayer e.g., Forest School session finding amazing tiny creatures or a Geography topic on earthquakes which may coincide with a recent news incident in the world. Older pupils contribute their own prayers in a prayer bowl to contribute to a weekly act of worship led by a local minister.

## CHURCH WORSHIP, Parents and Governors

The children and the vicar play an active role in special services at St John's Lacey Green. Parents are encouraged to be part of the church services, open assemblies and the Nativity play that is performed at the end of the Autumn term. Church Foundation Governors visit and monitor the school regularly, observing acts of worship and meeting with leaders to ensure the school's Christian distinctiveness remains strong and effective.

## RESOURCES

Collective worship draws on resources within the school community incorporating the staff, pupils and friends of the school. Practical resources to support whole school and classroom worship are stored centrally, with the Headteacher, RE teacher and church governors always being available for further support.

## **RECORD KEEPING AND ASSESSMENT**

A record and evaluation of daily acts of worship is kept (see appendix 1). The Headteacher assesses the quality and content of collective worship within the school, reporting to governors via the termly Headteacher's report on provision, actions taken and recommended next steps.

## **MONITORING, EVALUATION AND REVIEW**

Evaluation strategies currently used by pupils and staff for assessing the outcomes of collective worship are:

- Observation of different age groups and abilities level of attentiveness, engagement, interest and participation shown during acts of worship.
- Feedback from pupils / the School Council.
- Parents' comments after acts of collective worship, either at the school, in the Church or following the Nativity performance.
- Staff's individual evaluations after they have led acts of worship.
- Pupil or Parent Surveys to identify the impact of collective worship on the school community.
- Observation of the children's general behaviour in and around school and whether this is impacted by the school's distinctive Christian values.

Feedback is collated and informs the planning and development of future provision.



Speen School Weekly Assembly Log

**Half Termly Value:**

**Weekly British Value:**

**Special Events:**

**Song / Music of the Week:**

**Hymn Practice of the Week:**

Date	Content	Review