

## Cheapside CE Primary School



Amended January 2026 to update parents' right of withdrawal procedures in line with ODBE instruction.

### Collective Worship Policy

*Our Christian values are at the core of everything we do. They underpin our teaching and learning, and provide an environment which prepares our pupils as confident, happy citizens.*

#### Aims of Collective Worship

Paragraph 50 of Circular 1/94 says:

“Collective Worship should aim: to provide the opportunity for pupils to worship God, to consider spiritual and moral issues, and to explore their own beliefs; to encourage participation and response, whether through active involvement in the presentation of worship or through listening to and joining in the worship offered; and to develop community spirit, promote a common ethos and shared values, and reinforce positive attitudes.”

Through Collective Worship we aim to contribute to the spiritual and all-round development of each child. In worship, we aim to foster a reflective approach, to promote an understanding of and an empathy with the experiences of others, and to uphold a moral dimension associated with correct actions, attitudes and behaviour within school and within the community. The Christian ethos and foundation of the school influences our aims and approach to worship. Our interpretation of the statement made in the 1988 Education Reform Act and the 1993 Education Act that worship should be “wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character” is that our role in promoting the teachings and example of Jesus Christ is from a Christian perspective.

Collective worship enables a gathering together of the school or part of the school for a time of learning and reflection and of celebrating what is worthwhile in the school. There is the opportunity to worship God, and to discover what it is like to worship. Children learn to listen, reflect, respond and participate. The values of the school and of the community and society are made explicit. The Christian ethos of the school is also made explicit. The Christian dimension to worship is important to us, but our aim is that all children can feel included in worship, including those from families from other faiths or none. The Governing Body and Headteacher are together responsible for ensuring that CW is provided in line with the legal requirements.

Parents are reminded about their right to withdraw their child from collective worship in the school’s prospectus.

Requests for withdrawal should be granted without delay. The ‘religious grounds’ do not have to be justified and explained by the parents. Should children be withdrawn, the school must provide adequate supervision to ensure their safety. Children should not be withdrawn from Collective Worship for other purposes, e.g. reading, music lessons, to do so is to break the law.

The Guidance documents from the Church of England in May 2021, [Inclusive, Invitational, Inspirational](#), gives us the basis of our approach to collective worship at Cheapside.

Our intention is for all to flourish, ensuring that collective worship:

- nurtures and sustains a sense of belonging
- is a communal shared celebration of school’s vision
- is a special gathering where everyone is treated with equity
- is coming together with others in a safe space to share an experience if we wish to and worship if we choose to
- gives us all a chance to find perspective on local, national and global issues



**Collective worship...**

**What it is and what it isn't.**



- Done ‘with’
- Whole Community
- Participatory
- Carefully Planned
- Inclusive
- Distinctively Christian
- Spiritually developmental
- Spacious



- Done ‘to’ or ‘for’
- Just for Christians
- Led and planned only by adults
- Coercive
- Exclusively Christian
- Giving black and white answers
- Busy and Full
- BORING!

**Aspects of Collective Worship**

Collective Worship may involve: listening to music, singing, prayer (listening to prayers others have written, or having space available to pray quietly), reflection, discussion, talk by the worship leader, readings, listening and responding.

**Organisation for Worship**

Our usual pattern of worship, in order to meet statutory requirements and to provide an appropriate daily act of worship, is as follows, usually lasting about 20 minutes every day.

Monday: Led by the Headteacher, introducing a School Christian Value each week (exemplified by a Bible verse – see Appendix 1), under the umbrella Core School Value for that half term. Includes the challenge to demonstrate that value in our lives this week.

Tuesday: Led by the Assistant Headteacher and sharing learning from children, includes links to the School Values.

Wednesday: Led by the Headteacher, exploring that week’s value more deeply and through other religions, cultures and secular stories and literature.

Thursday: Led by Mrs Ryker, focusing on worship through singing.

Friday: Whole School Celebration Assembly led by the Headteacher. Includes an opportunity to reflect on our behaviours this week and how we have sought to demonstrate our Value of the Week.

### Collective Worship Schedule

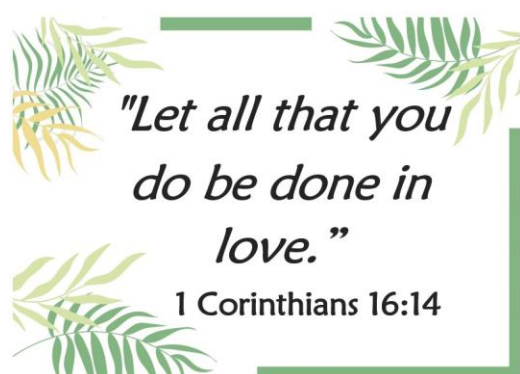
To ensure the Christians Distinctiveness of our school is embedded in our Collective Worship, an annual schedule is followed. This is structured through our agreed vision and values and also incorporates the seasons and festivals of the Church according to the liturgical calendar. Those leading worship are sensitive to the fact that children who come from other faiths and world views will be present and do not exclude them from participation either directly or by implication.

*“Throughout the year, Church school communities may meet to celebrate and mark certain seasons in the Church calendar, such as Lent and Advent. Other important events in the school year, such as the start and end of the academic year, may be marked by formal acts of collective worship. Pupils and adults will encounter the practice of regular prayer and worship as a normal part of the life of the school. These activities will help provide a rhythm and stillness as a pattern of community life.” (III May 21)*

### Our School Vision and Values

Our Collective Worship is underpinned by the Vision and Values of the school:

**“Achieving our best in thought, in word, in deed.”**



Term	Theme	Festivals/celebrations	Liturgical colour
Term 1	Compassion	Harvest	Green
Term 2	Inspiration	Remembrance / Advent / Christmas	Purple/White/Gold
Term 3	Creation	Epiphany / Candlemas	White
Term 4	Hope	Lent / Easter	Purple/White/Gold
Term 5	Community	Ascension	White/Gold
Term 6	Transformation	Pentecost	Red

Our school Bible Story is The Good Samaritan. This is referenced repeatedly throughout the school year in a range of contexts and to exemplify each of the School’s Core Values. (Appendix 2)

**Date ratified:** .....

**Signed:** .....**Title: Chair of Governors**

**Review date:** .....

**Appendix 1 - Key Bible verses for each theme****Creation:**

'And God said – 'let there be light', and there was light'. Gen 1:3

You created my inmost being. You knit me together in my mothers womb. Ps 139:14

I will praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Ps 139:14

We are God's masterpiece, created in Christ Jesus for good works. Eph 2:10

God created humanity in his image.

In the image of God he created them.

Male and female he created them. Gen 1:27

If anyone is in Christ, they are a new creation. The old has gone, the new is here. 2 Cor 5:17

Our help comes from the Lord, who made Heaven and earth. Ps 124:8

Whenever you feel unloved, unimportant or insecure, remember to whom you belong. Eph 2:19-22 summary.

**Inspiration:**

Be inspired by God, as his beloved Children. Eph 5:1

You have been called for this purpose... to follow in Jesus' steps.

Love one another, even as I have loved you. Jn 13:34

The good things you have learned and received and heard and seen... put them into practice and the God of peace will be with you. Phil 4:9

Your word is a lamp for my feet and a light for my path. Ps 119:105

**Hope:**

Having hope will give you courage: Job 18:21

Find rest in God: my hope comes from him Ps 62:5

For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.: Jer 29:11

I will make the valley of trouble, a door of hope. Hosea 2:15

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Those who hope in the Lord will find new strength. They will soar high on wings like eagles. They will run and not grow weary. They will walk and not faint. IS 40:31

**Compassion:**

"God loves a cheerful giver." 2 Corinthians ch 9 v 7

"Love is patient and kind; it is not jealous or conceited or proud; love is not ill-mannered or selfish or irritable; love does not keep a record of wrongs; love is not happy with evil, but is happy with the truth. Love never gives up; and its faith, hope, and patience never fails." 1 Corinthians chapter 13 verses 4-8

"Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives, do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful." John 14:27

"If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone." Roman 12:18

"Try to understand other people. Forgive each other. If you have something against someone, forgive them. That is the way the Lord forgave you." Colossians 3:13

"You should be a light for other people. Live so that they will see the good things you do and will praise your Father in heaven." Matthew 5:16

As God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Col 3:12

The lord is full of compassion and mercy. James 5:11

As a father has compassion on his children, so the Lord has compassion on those who fear him. Ps 103:13

God's love is always present for those who follow him. Making everything right for them and their children. Ps 103:18

The Lord is merciful and compassionate, slow to get angry and filled with unflinching love. Ps 145:8

Be kind and compassionate to each other, forgiving each other just as in Jesus Christ, God forgave you. Eph 4:32

Let us think about each other and help each other to show love and do good deeds. Heb 10:24

The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit. Ps 34:18

Don't just pretend to love others, really love them. Rom 12:9.

Nothing will be able to separate us from the love of God. Rom 8:38

### **Transformation:**

Don't conform, be transformed . rom 12:2

Faith can move mountains Mt 17:20

Create in me a pure heart, O God. Ps 51:10

I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you. Ez 36:26

Let your light shine for others. Mt 5:16

You're here to be light, bringing out the God colours in the word. Mt 5:16

With God all things are possible. Mk 10:27

### **Community:**

Where 2 or 3 are gathered together in my name, I am with them. Mt 18:20

Encourage on another and build one another up. 1 Thess 5:11

Carry each others burdens Gal 6:2

Two are better than one. If they fall down, they can help each other up. A cord of 3 strands is not easily broken. Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

Our Father, who art in heaven. Give us today our daily bread and forgive our sins. Mt 6:9-12

Welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you. Rom 15:7

It is good and pleasant when God's people live together in peace. Ps 133:1

How wonderful, how beautiful, when brothers and sisters get along. Ps 133:1

## **Appendix 2 - Cheapside Values and the Story of the Good Samaritan**

The story of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25–37) is one of Jesus' most well-known parables. It's rich with moral and spiritual lessons, and the school values —transformation, creation, hope, compassion, inspiration, and community—are all represented in various ways throughout the story.

---

### 1. Compassion

This is the central value of the parable.

The Samaritan, moved with compassion, stops to help a wounded man left to die on the roadside.

Unlike the priest and the Levite who pass by, the Samaritan chooses empathy over indifference, showing that true neighbourly love requires feeling another's pain and acting on it.

---

### 2. Transformation

Transformation occurs both in the actions and the moral message of the story:

The Samaritan defies social and religious boundaries. Jews and Samaritans were enemies, but he transforms the expected narrative by becoming the hero.

Jesus also uses this parable to transform the definition of "neighbour" from a tribal or national identity to one based on love and mercy. The story transforms how people see others—challenging prejudice and expanding moral responsibility.

---

### 3. Creation

Creation here refers to the creation of new relationships, new understanding, and new ways of living.

The Samaritan creates a bond with the injured man through selfless care.

The parable itself helps listeners create a new vision of justice, mercy, and inclusivity.

---

#### 4. Hope

The injured man, left for dead, represents a state of despair but the Samaritan's actions restore hope—not just physical recovery but a renewed belief in human kindness.

The parable tells us that no one is beyond the reach of care, and there's hope even when society turns away.

---

#### 5. Inspiration

Jesus uses the parable to inspire his listeners to act differently. He ends by saying: "Go and do likewise." The Samaritan becomes a model of mercy—someone who challenges norms and inspires radical love.

---

#### 6. Community

Though the story shows people who ignore a man in need, the Samaritan's actions rebuild community. He doesn't just bandage wounds; he brings the man to an inn, pays for his care, and promises to return.

This is a picture of interconnectedness—where one person's suffering becomes the concern of another, regardless of social divisions.