Chelmsford Diocesan Board of Education

Promoting life in all its fullness through education across Essex and East London

Collective Worship Model Policy

Church of England/Academies in the Diocese of Chelmsford

Date: July 2026

Name of school	St Luke's CEVA Primary School
School vision	Walking humbly with God, Growing with Every Opportunity and Being just and Kind

Introduction

Our Collective Worship Policy strengthens and supports the Christian ethos of our school, explores our vision "Walking Humbly with God, Growing with Every Opportunity and Be Just and Kindr' and the associated values we derive from them being Justice Kindness Respect Service Growth . Our worship reflects the variety of traditions found in the Church of England and will recognise and follow the Christian liturgical year.

Worship in St Luke's is not simply a statutory duty. The daily Christian act of collective worship is the heartbeat of our school, central to our ethos and is supported by all staff and governors. It makes an important contribution to the overall spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of the whole school community.

The aims and purpose of Collective Worship as defined by the Education Reform Act 1988 are as follows:

- To provide an opportunity for the children to worship God.
- To enable children to consider spiritual and moral issues.
- To enable children to explore their own beliefs.
- To encourage participation and response
- To develop in children a sense of community spirit
- To promote a common ethos with shared values and to reinforce positive attitudes.

Legal Requirements

We seek to comply with the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 (Section 70 and Schedule 20) which requires that:

- All registered pupils (apart from those whose parents exercise the right to withdrawal) must on each day take part in an act of Collective Worship.
- The daily act of Collective Worship should be conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Trust Deeds of the St Luke's and the ethos statement in the Instrument of Government and should be consistent with the beliefs and practices of the Church of England.
- All acts of Collective Worship in Church St Luke's must be Christian in character. Pupils can be grouped in various ways for worship such as the whole school, year groups, tutor groups, classes, or other combinations.
- Acts of worship must be appropriate for the pupils in that they should take account of the pupils' age, aptitude and family backgrounds.
- The daily act of Collective Worship will normally take place on the St Luke's premises, but all are able to hold their Act of Collective Worship elsewhere (e.g. the local Parish Church) on special occasions.
- Responsibility for the arrangement of Collective Worship in a Church of England at St Luke's rests with the Local Governing Body in consultation with the Principal/Headteacher.

Principles of collective worship

Each adult and pupil will experience worship that is truly welcoming, inclusive and exemplifying the principles of Christian hospitality (see Church of England's Collective Worship Guidance). Collective worship therefore will be:

- **Inclusive** – Our acts of worship recognise that pupils and staff come from homes of different faith backgrounds as well as no faith backgrounds, so it will be inclusive of, and fully accessible to all. Care will be taken to ensure that language used by those facilitating worship avoids assuming faith of those participating, listening or watching.
- **Invitational** – In our acts of worship, there is no compulsion to 'do anything'. Rather, worship will provide the opportunity to engage whilst allowing the freedom of those of different faiths and those who profess no religious faith to be present and to engage with integrity. Pupils and adults will be invited to pray and sing if they wish to do so.
- **Inspiring** – By asking and discussing big questions about who we are and what we do in worship we hope to motivate pupils and adults into action. There will be opportunities to think, reflect and ponder on their and the wider community's behaviour and actions.

Implementation

In addition to the above, we seek to provide acts of Collective Worship that reflect the faith and

practice of the Church of England. Therefore:

We use the Bible as a sourcebook for inspiration and learning and make pupils familiar with the Lord's Prayer, Psalms and other verses of scripture. We also introduce them to a variety of well-known prayers – many of which express the central beliefs of Christians throughout the ages.

We use aspects of Anglican liturgy to create a framework for worship articulate here – e.g. gather, engage, respond, send). We observe the cycle of the Anglican year including celebrations of the major Christian festivals.

In St Luke's, we aim to provide a worship space which are attractive and well prepared with appropriate thought having been given to colour, space, seating, ambience and music.

We foster links with St Luke's Church, involving the Reverend Amy Stott in leading collective worship and providing coherence between worship in church and weekly and visit at least every week.

We recognise that different members of our school community spiritually reflect in different ways. Music, story, silence, prayer, drama and other approaches are incorporated within a varied collective worship offer.

Connections with other Christian denominations and faiths

The Anglican Communion sees itself as part of a global church and promotes ecumenism. At St Luke's, we work to promote links with other local churches and Christian organisations and welcome their clergy and leaders as contributors to acts of collective worship. We recognise that while some of our pupils and families belong to Anglican churches, many worship regularly at churches of other Christian denominations, while others come from different faith backgrounds or none. We endeavor to provide a setting in which the integrity of those present is not compromised, where everyone finds something positive for themselves and there is no pressure to participate inappropriately or to believe.

Rights and Responsibilities

As established by the 1944 Act and reinforced through this policy, parents have the right to withdraw their children from Collective Worship. Any parent wishing to exercise this right should inform the school of their intention. All withdrawals will be treated with respect. Should such a situation arise, the withdrawal will be recorded by the school and appropriate arrangements would be made in keeping with the requirements of the Act.

Our Collective Worship Pattern and Practice

Leadership

Planning

Consider your approach to planning Collective Worship. The following questions may support you with this.

- How worship is planned and who is involved in the planning
- How all members of the school community, especially children, are equipped to plan and lead acts of worship.
- How worship reflects the cycle of the Church year
- How the Christian values of the school are identified, expressed and celebrated through collective worship.
- How explicit links are made between Bible stories and the Christian values of the school.
- How a pattern for worship is used which reflects Anglican tradition
- The range and variety of materials used, including websites, artefacts, stories, drama scripts, artwork, music, songs, film clips, focal points e.g., a picture or candle.
- How opportunities are provided for children and adults to explore faith in today's world
- How the Christian belief in the Trinitarian nature of God is explored.
- How spiritual growth through prayer, stillness and reflection is nurtured

Organisation

How is CW organised to take account of:

- The different groupings for worship, including whole school/key stage/class worship
- The different settings and places for worship; how the worship space is made special; and

how the atmosphere for worship is created using:

The liturgical colours of the seasons of the Church Year,

Christian signs and symbols, candles, music, a focal point,

Ritual and liturgical responses,

How the children are seated,

An outdoor area e.g. spiritual garden, the local church

- At what point in the school day worship is held and the amount of time allocated.

Resourcing, Staff development and training

The budget for Collective Worship is distinct from the budget for Religious Education. There is a wide selection of assembly books and artefacts which we regularly update and improve We ensure that all staff, including support staff, receive appropriate training and opportunities for professional development, both as individuals and as groups or teams

Visitor Leaders to Collective Worship

We welcome visitors to lead and participate in our Collective Worship. Visiting Collective Worship Leaders are asked to read and comply with our school visitor and safeguarding policies: as well as the Church of England Guidance for Collective Worship in Schools. Curriculum: collective worship — National Society for Education The welcoming member of staff/headteacher/Collective Worship Lead will discuss with the visitor, prior to the visitor leading Collective Worship, the content, expectations and practices Collective Worship. The purpose is to ascertain its suitability for the school community. Visitors are never left alone with children as the supervision of pupils remains the responsibility of school staff.

Contribution to Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development

We recognise that although SMSC development should be fostered across the whole curriculum, acts of Collective Worship provide a multitude of opportunities in this area. For example, children will be encouraged to reflect on and celebrate the deeper meanings of life, consider their own behaviour and recognise the need for forgiveness, appreciate the contributions of others and respond to their needs, value their own culture and the cultures of others.

Spirituality

The spiritual flourishing of pupils and adults within the school community is thoughtfully considered when planning collective worship. Our shared understanding of spirituality - (Insert shared understanding here) - shapes and enriches the themes explored through worship. Opportunities for

pupils' spiritual growth and flourishing are intentionally woven throughout worship and further nurtured in the following ways:

Monitoring and Evaluation

Our Collective Worship practice is regularly reviewed through discussions with pupils and staff through observations and reflections. These evaluations feed into the planning and delivery of future worship (by Whom?).

Collective Worship is monitored by the Headteacher.

Inclusion

We are committed to equality of opportunity regardless of race, gender, cultural background, ability or any physical or sensory disability. We therefore aim to make Collective Worship accessible to all and accommodate ourselves to individual needs when appropriate.

Implementation of Policy

The Headteacher as Collective Worship Coordinator is responsible for this policy which will be reviewed every two years. Its implementation is the responsibility of all those planning and leading Collective Worship.

Review

This policy will be reviewed every two years.

Written By:	**John Armitage**
Adopted By:	**Governors – TBC – December 2026**
Review Date:	**July 2027**