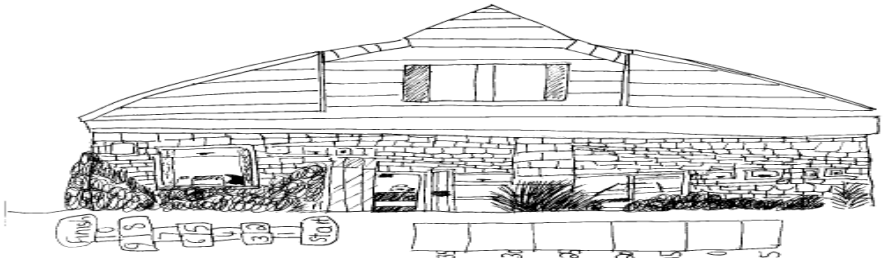
Graveley Primary School
A Church of England (VC) School



Collective Worship Policy

Date of policy	**Autumn Term 2026**
Date ratified by the Governing Board	**11/11/2026**
Date of next review	**Autumn Term 2029**

'Rooted in God's love, growing together in hope.' Ephesians 3:17

Rationale

Our School Vision

"Rooted in God's love, growing together in hope." Ephesians 3:17

At Graveley Primary School, we believe that every child is wonderfully made in the image of God, with unique gifts, hopes, and potential. Inspired by the teachings of Jesus, we are a nurturing, inclusive, and compassionate community where all are welcomed, valued, and supported to flourish—regardless of background, ability, or circumstance.

Guided by the words of Micah 6:8, *"Act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with your God,"* we strive to:

- **Celebrate diversity** as a reflection of God's rich creation—recognising and honouring the dignity and worth of every individual, including children with special educational needs and those seeking sanctuary.
- **Provide a safe and loving environment** where children are empowered to learn, grow, and discover their purpose, supported by tailored care that nurtures emotional, spiritual, and academic development.
- **Build strong relationships** founded on mutual respect, kindness, and understanding, creating a school family where every voice is heard and every story matters.
- **Encourage resilience, hope, and healing**, fostering a culture of perseverance and joy in learning, especially for those who have experienced trauma or disruption.

Together with families, the local church, and the wider community, we seek to be a beacon of light and peace—cultivating a spirit of belonging and aspiration in the heart of our village.

1. **Legal Framework (**From Hertfordshire SACRE: Collective Worship Guidance: 2025)

Key Statutory Requirements as set out Collective worship in schools - GOV.UK.

- **A daily act of collective worship is a legal requirement** for all registered pupils in maintained schools (Education Reform Act 1988)
- **Collective worship should be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character**, but schools should consider pupils' age, aptitude, and family backgrounds.
- **Parents have a right to withdraw their child** from collective worship, and pupils in post-16 education can withdraw themselves.
- **Teachers, including headteachers, have a right to withdraw** from leading or attending collective worship.
- **Schools can apply for a 'determination'** through SACRE if a broadly Christian character is inappropriate for some or all pupils.

2. Aims

Collective Worship at Graveley is a daily opportunity for the school community to draw together and have a period of time to reflect, question and share.

As a Church of England School our aims for Collective Worship is that it should be '**Inclusive, Invitational and Inspiring.'**

3. Inclusive

Our Collective Worship is collective, not corporate as we recognise that our school community is a collection of people embracing a great variety of beliefs, faith and non-faith backgrounds.

We offer the opportunity through questions, exploration of values and themes, for those who have already developed a growing Christian commitment, a place where their thoughts and emotions can be expressed. For others the experience of worship will be tentative and exploratory, whilst those without a religious commitment, Collective Worship is offered as a space to appreciate what worship means for others and have a space for personal reflections.

We aim to:

- Help pupils and adults to appreciate the relevance of faith in today's world by encountering the teachings of Jesus and the Bible.
- Develop the children's understanding of the Christian belief.
- Acknowledge the things which have meaning, value and purpose for the pupils as individuals, as well as for the school and the wider community.
- Foster a sense of community and unity in the school and in the community beyond it and celebrate achievements, special occasions and special events in relation to individual pupils within school, to the school as a whole, or to the wider community and to enable the children to bring serious events in their lives e.g. bereavement and moving-on and we celebrate the uniqueness and specialness of each individual.

4. Invitational

We aim to:

- Offer worship which provides 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.
- Invite the children and adults to join in with prayers, quiet periods of reflection and stillness and singing so that they may understand the themes and ideas being explored.
- Allow children opportunities to experience and appreciate the use of symbolism and religious language to express feelings and belief.
- Offer opportunities for the children to take part in significant celebrations on the Christian calendar.

5. Inspiring

- Establish, explore and reinforce our school vision and help our children understand its relevance to the life they lead.
- Explore half-termly values, linking them to Christian beliefs and make them relatable to the children's own experiences.

In accordance with statutory requirements, at Graveley Primary School collective worship is placed at the centre of the school's daily life. We provide daily collective daily worship for all registered pupils, unless permission has been asked by parents or them to be withdrawn. Worship is generally organised on a whole school basis and is led by staff, visitors and of course the pupils themselves.

6. Planning Collective Worship

- The headteacher will produce a yearly Worship Plan including an indication of the subject focus of each Collective Worship experience.
- Themes for worship will be chosen reflecting a wide variety of approaches. They will consider our shared core values of belonging, faith, love, hope, justice and resilience.
- When appropriate, Collective Worship will engage with any event, local, national or world, of which the children may be aware, and offer appropriate worship in response. There is room for spontaneity.
- The Rector of St Mary's Church in Graveley parish will lead Collective Worship on a monthly basis.
- From time to time, it may be suitable for visitors representing charities, organisations or projects to lead or contribute to Collective Worship.
- Collective Worship is non-curriculum time and should connect with, and reinforce, the curriculum but not be constrained by it.
- Children will not be passive but will be encouraged to participate in appropriate ways. On some occasions, pupils or classes will lead the act of worship.

Collective worship at Graveley will provide opportunities for pupils to explore the spiritual dimension of the world. Therefore, acts of worship may include:

- A range of starting points and stimuli e.g. Bible stories, pictures, prayers, songs, music, symbols and artefacts.
- Expressions of thankfulness, praise and joy.
- Feelings of sadness, compassion and loss if appropriate.
- Opportunities for calm and reflection.
- Stillness as well as words.
- Opportunities to explore ethical and moral questions. There will be room for questions and answers, particularly within the more intimate environment of the classroom.

Our Collective Worship follows a set pattern:

Monday	Values focus
Tuesday	Linking Bible story
Wednesday	Singing worship
Thursday	Class-based – Connecting this week's theme to today's world
Friday	Celebration and Wow moments

Reception children attend Collective Worship once they have settled in the Autumn term.

7. Monitoring and Evaluation

Our team of 'Collectives' evaluate Collective worship on a rota system. The evaluation involves discussion on the theme, what was beneficial and suggestions for the future. This is monitored by the lead teacher for Collective worship. The Head Teacher will report to the Governing board who will review this policy every three years.

APPENDIX 1

Graveley Primary School

Core Christian Values

Term	Value	Biblical Reference
Autumn 1	**Belonging** *Everyone is welcome, valued, and accepted as they are.*	*"So in Christ we, though many, form one body."* – Romans 12:5
Autumn 2	**Faith** *We trust in God and each other, growing together in belief and courage.*	*"Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see."* – Hebrews 11:1
Spring 1	**Love** *We treat one another with kindness, respect, and compassion.*	*"Love one another as I have loved you."* – John 13:34
Spring 2	**Hope** *We encourage dreams and never give up, even in difficulty.*	*"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him."* – Romans 15:13
Summer 1	**Justice** *We speak up for fairness and act with integrity and honesty.*	*"What does the Lord require of you? To act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with your God."* – Micah 6:8
Summer 2	**Resilience** *We help each other bounce back and keep going with strength.*	*"Suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope."* – Romans 5:3–4