



Heartwood CE VC Primary and Nursery School

Collective Worship Policy

**DATE: May 2025
REVIEW: May 2026**

Our Christian Vision

Motto: *Learn to Love – Love to Learn*

Biblical Inspiration: *“Live life in all its fullness” – John 10:10*

At Heartwood, our Christian vision is rooted in Jesus’ promise of ‘life in all its fullness’ (John 10:10), which calls us to nurture each child’s unique gifts, fostering love, compassion and wisdom. Through worship, we live out the teachings of Christ by developing hearts and minds that reflect the love of God.”

Purpose of Collective Worship

Collective Worship at Heartwood is the **heartbeat of our school day**. It provides a shared space where pupils and staff gather to:

- Grow spiritually and reflect on God’s presence in our lives
- Celebrate the values of friendship, respect, service, courage, compassion, and responsibility
- Reflect on Bible stories and teachings of Jesus
- Respond to life’s joys, challenges, and questions with faith, prayer and reflection
- Feel part of God’s family, regardless of faith background

Legal Framework

In accordance with the **Education Reform Act 1988**, all pupils participate in a **daily act of collective worship**, which:

- Reflects the school’s **Anglican foundation**
- Is **inclusive and accessible**, taking account of age, ability and background
- Welcomes pupils of **all faiths or none**

Parents have the right to withdraw their children, but we encourage all to join as valued members of our school family.

The Nature of Worship

Collective Worship at Heartwood is:

- **Inclusive** – respecting different beliefs, avoiding assumptions of faith
- **Invitational** – no pressure to pray or sing; pupils may observe with integrity
- **Inspirational** – encouraging action, reflection and spiritual growth

We aim for worship to be a sacred, reflective, and joyful time where pupils can **ask big questions** and find meaning.

Aims of Worship

Through worship we aim to:

- Deepen understanding of Christian beliefs, stories and values
- Foster **spiritual development** and moments of awe, stillness and connection
- Encourage moral choices and character development
- Strengthen community and celebrate each person's unique worth
- Explore global Christian perspectives and care for creation
- Provide opportunities for **pupil leadership** in worship through our 'Prayer Warriors'

The Anglican Christian Tradition

Our worship draws on the richness of the Anglican tradition, including:

- Exploring God as **Father, Son and Holy Spirit**
- Observing the **Church calendar** – Advent, Christmas, Easter, Pentecost, and Saints' Days
- Use of Christian symbols: Bible, candle, cross
- Regular use of traditional and modern **hymns, psalms, and the Lord's Prayer**
- Space for silence, prayer and reflection

Structure of Worship

We follow the fourfold structure based on Jesus' model of gathering, teaching, responding, and sending:

Gather

- Music, greeting, lighting of the candle
- "God is love, all the time – All the time, God is love"

Engage

- Bible story, song, drama, discussion or video
- Focus on current events, Christian festivals, and values

Respond

- Reflection, discussion, prayer or silence
- Invitation to participate or be still

Send

- Thought or action for the day
- Closing prayer, candle extinguished

Weekly Worship Timetable

Day	Led by	Focus
Monday	SLT	Picture News
Tuesday	Staff	Singing Worship
Wednesday	Clergy/Visitors	Core Termly Value
Thursday	SLT	Core Termly Value
Friday	Headteacher	Celebration Worship

EYFS have tailored worship in class. Reception join whole school worship in the summer term.

Prayer and Reflection

Daily prayers include:

- The Lord's Prayer
- The Heartwood School Prayer
- Lunchtime and end-of-day prayers
- Teaspoon Prayer (TSP)

Pupils are invited to pray or listen respectfully. Spaces are created for stillness, silence, and contemplation.

Monitoring, Evaluation and Pupil Voice

Worship is regularly evaluated by:

- **Ethos Committee**
- **Pupil-led "Prayer Warriors"**
- **Governor visits**
- **Pupil and staff feedback**

Feedback is used to refine worship and ensure it remains **engaging, meaningful and impactful**. Evidence of worship's effect on spirituality and behaviour is recorded through pupil voice and observations.

Partnerships

We work closely with:

- **The Diocese of Norwich** – training and support
- **St Peter & St Paul Church** – regular services and worship
- **Community groups** such as FOL and Kidz Klub
- **Parents and families** – invited to special services

Developing Worship

To ensure excellence in worship, we commit to:

- Providing **ongoing training** for all worship leaders
- Reviewing the policy regularly with governors and staff
- Supporting staff and visitors to lead confidently
- Equipping Prayer Warriors to plan and lead worship
- Using high-quality **liturgical and creative resources**