



# The Magdalen Church of England / Methodist Primary School



## Collective Worship Policy

Review September 2027

# The Magdalen Church of England / Methodist Primary School

## Our Theologically Rooted Church School Vision

Our Vision is based upon Genesis 16:13

*She gave this name to the LORD, who spoke to her. "You are the God who sees me," for she said, "I have now seen the One who sees me."*

'Inspired by *William Waynflete* and *John Wesley*, we have a vision to be an **aspirational** school delivering excellence in learning by being **creative**, **inclusive** and **resilient** so that we can all serve in God's world to the best of our ability.'

## The Nature of Collective Worship

As stated in the Education Regulations Circular 1/94, all maintained schools must provide religious education and daily collective worship for all registered pupils. Collective worship must be wholly, or mainly of a broadly Christian character. The circular also states that, "worship should be concerned with reverence or veneration paid to a divine being or power." Our acts of worship are, therefore not mere 'assemblies', they are distinct, protected times of the school day when all members of the school community are invited to join to worship God, consider spiritual and moral issues and explore our individual beliefs.

Worship in this school is more than just a legal requirement. It is an integral part of school life and central to the Church of England tradition. As a Church of England / Methodist school, our school community thrives within the love of God. Collective worship is the heartbeat of the school; a daily opportunity for us to pause, be still and share God's Word, considering how the Love of God can be taken into our day to day lives. A full overview of our approach to collective worship can be found in 'Collective Worship : Our Mission' (Appendix 1)

## Provision

All Academies are required to provide a daily act of collective worship for all pupils either in the form of a single act of worship or as separate acts of worship for different age groups (1988 Education Reform Act).

We endorse the belief that Collective Worship should take into account the religious and educational needs of all who share in it:

- Those who form part of the worshipping community in church
- Those for whom school may be their first and only experience of church
- Those from other Christian traditions
- Those from other faith backgrounds
- Those of no faith

Collective worship in school is an experience to which all can contribute and from which all can gain.

## Aims of Collective Worship

Collective Worship in our school aims to provide opportunity for all children and staff:

- To learn about the fundamentals of the Christian faith and grow in liturgical understanding
- To contemplate something of the mystery of God and take time out 'to wonder at' His glory
- To reflect on spiritual and moral issues whilst exploring their own beliefs; providing children with opportunities for spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.
- To actively participate and experience a sense of belonging and community spirit, developing a common ethos and shared values
- To encourage and promote a respect for people of other cultures and creeds and increase awareness of the beliefs, worship and festivals of other cultures and creeds.
- To make comparisons with teachings of faith and their own experiences.

## Implementation

### Planning

Collective Worship in our school is carefully planned to reflect the Christian calendar. We use the Big Start Assemblies resource as a starting point for the majority our worship and adapt this to reflect the context of our school community. A full overview of our worship themes as well as relevant liturgy can be found in 'Collective Worship : Our Mission' (Appendix 1)

Each week, we introduce 'The One Thing'; a statement, linked to that week's worship, which we encourage the children to remember and act out in their day-to-day life.

Our pupils are frequently consulted on Collective Worship and are encouraged to make suggestions about enhancing and improving our worship offer. This pupil involvement is key to ensuring that worship is meaningful to the children in our care; it challenges the grown-ups to keep worship relevant, engaging and inclusive. Children are instrumental in the delivery of acts of worship – in particular Friday Faith during which they deliver their own prayers, select hymns or pieces of music etc.

### When and Where

Monday – Whole school worship led by Head Teacher / SLT / Clergy

Tuesday – Whole school worship led by Head Teacher / SLT / Clergy

Wed – Choral Worship – praising God through song led by SLT

Thurs – Key Stage worship led by teachers - exploring themes in more depth

Friday – Friday Faith – a lively, child-led opportunity to celebrate our School Vision and Values

Worship takes place mostly in the school hall, but we also enjoy opportunities to praise God in our local churches as well as in the school grounds. We join the congregations of The Methodist Chapel and All Saints church at regular intervals throughout the year, sharing these services with our families and the local community.

### Space and Time for Prayer and Reflection

Pupils are taught about the purpose and value of prayer and reflection as part of the ongoing daily worship. Pupils are encouraged to participate in and lead prayer in school, at church, in other places, at lunchtimes, at the end of the day in each class, and, we will celebrate individual prayers if the children or parents share information about prayer at other times.

There is always an interactive prayer space in school for pupils to add their own prayers. We call this our Reflection Area and it is maintained, resourced and monitored by our Collective Worship Council, a group of KS2 children who meet fortnightly after school, to plan and produce resources to support prayer and reflection opportunities for children in school.

During acts of worship, those who do not wish to pray are encouraged to listen and take the time for their own reflection and thought.

### Exemption from Collective Worship

It is expected that all children take part in R.E. and collective worship however, although seldom exercised, parents/carers do have the right to request exemption for their child/ren from collective worship. The 1944 and 1988 Education acts states "If a parent asks that a pupil should be wholly or partly excused from attending any religious worship or Religious Education given in the school, then the school must comply". Should exemption be requested the school would work with parents/carers to see what arrangements could be made for the supervision of the children.

### Parish and Community links

We are extremely proud and appreciative of our strong links with both our local churches – the Methodist Chapel and All Saints Church. Representatives of both churches lead weekly worship in school and in addition to this, are frequent visitors, supporting school events such as nativities, sports days and our annual Magdalen's Got Talent event. We, in turn, support the churches at events such as Remembrance, Community lunches, coffee mornings etc.

Clergy also take part in our annual Remembrance Service which we host in collaboration with the Wainfleet Branch of The Royal British Legion (RBL). Our school is honoured to be officially affiliated to the RBL.

Mrs Allread from the Methodist Chapel and Father Aiden from the Anglican All Saints Church visit school regularly and lead worship. Father Aiden and Rev'd Miles (Methodist) serve on our Academy Committee. In this capacity, they ensure that the school's curriculum and its ethos truly represent a Christian character and strongly demonstrate our Church School Distinctiveness.

### Monitoring, Evaluation and Review

The Head Teacher, with support from SLT, is directly responsible for the management of daily acts of collective worship in this school: however, all staff are responsible for ensuring it supports the school's ethos and Christian beliefs – by attendance at worship and family services, by leading worship themselves or enabling pupils to lead worship effectively. Governors and senior staff monitor and review worship together.

Children have a key role to play in this area. Each week, during whole school worship, children complete our '**Worship @ Wainfleet**' book in order to record what happened, what struck them, relevant contributions made as well as 'The One Thing' for that week.

Children are also encouraged to celebrate members of the school community who have been seen to be living out The One Thing. Post-It notes are written and these are shared and celebrated during our Friday Faith.

This policy is monitored by the Collective Worship co-ordinator (Mrs A. Mills) and is evaluated and reviewed by the whole school staff and governors annually. The parish priest, the Methodist Minister and the governors play a most important role in this. The policy and practice for Collective Worship will be evaluated to consider whether it meets the needs of all children and whether children are making progress in acquiring skills and understanding so that they participate in and contribute meaningfully to acts of worship.

The Role of the Collective Worship Co-ordinator – see Appendix 2.

APPENDIX 1

**The Magdalen Church of England / Methodist School**  
**Wainfleet All Saints**

**Our School Vision**

Inspired by William Waynflete and John Wesley we have a vision to be an *aspirational* school delivering excellence in learning by being *creative, inclusive, and resilient* so that we can all serve in God's world to the best of our ability.

Our school Vision is based upon Genesis 16:13

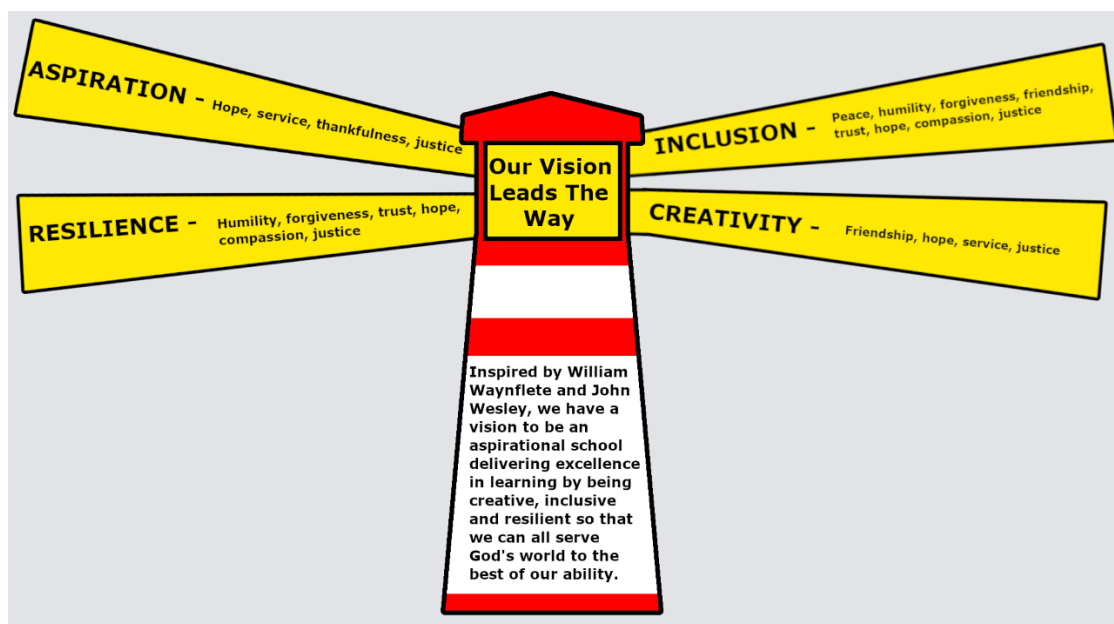
She gave this name to the Lord, who spoke to her. "You are the God who sees me," for she said, "I have now seen the One who sees me."

To us, this means that each and every member of our school community: staff, pupils, parents and visitors are 'seen' by us. Everything that we do within The Magdalen Church of England/Methodist Primary School is for the benefit of **ALL**. We strive to support every member of our school to know that we are here to support them to flourish within God's world.

**Our Leading Lights**

**Aspiration Creativity Inclusion Resilience**

These four leading lights taken from our church school vision run all through our school life, linking to our Ten Magdalen Values



# Collective Worship: Our Mission

Our school community thrives within the love of God. Our collective worship is the heartbeat of the school; a daily opportunity for us to pause, be still and share God's Word, considering how the Love of God can be taken into our day to day lives.

**“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.”** John 15.12

## **Our Vision, leading lights and Values form the foundation of our daily worship.**

The Church of England states that Collective worship gives pupils and school staff the opportunity to:

- Engage in an act of community.
- Express praise and thanksgiving to God.
- Be still and reflect.
- Explore the big questions of life and respond to national events.
- Foster respect and deepen spiritual awareness.
- Reflect on the character of God and on the teachings of Christ.
- Affirm Christian values and attitudes.
- Share each other's joys and challenges.
- Celebrate special times in the Christian calendar.

The Evaluation Schedule for SIAMS details the expectations for school worship and asserts that school worship should, among other things ...

- Be inspiring and transformational.
- Include a range of creative opportunities e.g. music, silence, symbol, drama
- Develop the Christian vision, values, and ethos of the school.

### **Pattern of Worship**

Christian music is played as children enter the hall.

Children are seated in a horseshoe shape with the worship table in the centre. Mrs Alldread / Father Aiden will lead the worship on an alternating weekly rota. A member of SLT will introduce the worship as detailed below.

Our Worship table is positioned at the front of all collective worships. The cloth denotes the Church of England's Liturgical calendar – see table below. The worship table is used to display the candle of reflection, the Bible and the LAAT candles of Excellence, Exploration and Enjoyment (Friday Faith).

<b>Green</b>	Used during 'Ordinary time' between the main festivals and seasons. This covers most of the year and can represent growth.
<b>Red</b>	Used to either mark saints' days where it represents their death as a martyr, or to represent the flames of the Holy Spirit (for Pentecost / Whitsun).
<b>White</b>	Represents being pure, in celebrations such as baptisms, weddings, and some funerals. Also used for celebrations either on its own or with gold. It is also used for saints who did not die as martyrs.
<b>Gold</b>	Key celebrations, for example Christmas Day and Easter Sunday. Provision is also made for Gold days to be dressed in White.
<b>Purple</b>	Used for times of preparation and waiting, the reflective seasons. Key times are Advent and Lent.

Christian entrance music plays softly as children enter the hall - children are invited to sing along if they wish to, or to sit quietly and reflect. The school vision is displayed.

On a Monday, each class brings their cube to the hall. Class cubes illustrate the Biblical origin of each class name. Collective Worship Councillors receive each cube and assemble them to create a structure in the form of a cross, to symbolise us coming together to worship in one place.

We start with the greeting “May the Peace of the Lord be with you” or “God be with you” and the response, “and also with you” is given.

The worship power point is displayed, and 'clicker' controlled by the worship leader. Each week's worship refers to 'The One Thing' - the main, non-negotiable message that we want the children to remember and act out in their daily lives.

2 children (one from KS1 and another from KS2) are seated at the Worship@Wainfleet table throughout worship to record the act of worship and their response to it in the Record Book.

A child is chosen to light the candle, and a moment of reflection is introduced. A few responses are taken from the children, and this is followed by the song which we stand to sing. The main worship then proceeds and concludes with a prayer followed by the Lord's Prayer.

A different child is selected to blow out the candle as a final opportunity for reflection is given as we review 'The One Thing' that we are taking away for the worship.

The blessing “May the Peace of the Lord go with you” is given, with the response “and also with you”.

Music is played as the classes leave the hall.

Classes leave worship one at a time, standing when asked to do so by their teacher.

Our school uses the 'Big Start assemblies' resource as the basis of our whole school worship. This resource has been carefully selected to provide a consistent pattern and approach, enabling worship to provide opportunities for children and staff to engage in a shared and meaningful experience linked to the love and teachings of Christ. Big Start Assemblies closely correlates to Understanding Christianity. We also enhance our provision, as appropriate, with the 'Roots & Fruits' resource, from Imaginor.

We believe that it is vital for Collective Worship to reflect the context of the school and the community that we serve as well as our place in the wider world. We encourage staff to deliver acts of worship that reflect the world in which we live – placing British Values, global citizenship and clear Christian Values in one place.

Friday worship is called Friday Faith.

This is an opportunity for the school community to gather in the hall to celebrate and praise. Our children are closely involved in the planning and delivery of this act of

worship. They select the music, compose and lead the prayers. We celebrate members of our school family who have demonstrated the school Vision & Values within their day-to-day life, acting as role models to others. Our Star of the Week children are applauded and we re-visit 'The One Thing' from that week's worship, sharing names of those who have been celebrated on 'The One Thing' flipchart in the Reflection Area. We celebrate Excellence, Exploration & Encouragement as members of our Academy Trust family.

## **APPENDIX 2**

### **The Role of the Collective Worship Co-ordinator**

The school's co-ordinator for Collective Worship is currently Mrs Anita Mills.

The main responsibilities of this role include:

- Formulating a written policy for Collective Worship, in consultation with all staff, the Parish Priest and governors.
- Ensuring that Collective Worship is appropriate to the age and aptitudes of children. Monitoring and improving delivery of Collective Worship where necessary.
- Liaising with staff and clergy to organise worship according to the Collective Worship planning overview.
- Liaising with staff and governors to ensure that the school's theologically rooted Christian Vision is understood by all and is communicated effectively and clearly.
- Assisting governors to carry out their legal responsibilities with regard to Collective Worship.
- Lead Pupil Voice sessions, making changes and adaptations where necessary in line with feedback from the children.
- Lead Collective Worship Council meetings, facilitating pupil responsibility with regard to Collective Worship.

#### **The Collective Worship Co-ordinator will :-**

##### **Professional Development:**

- Keep up to date by personal reading.
- Attend appropriate in-service courses and report back to SLT in the first instance.
- Lead and organise in-service training for staff as appropriate.

##### **Planning, Recording, Monitoring and Evaluating :**

- Maintain and develop effective procedures and documentation.
- Observe acts of collective worship led by different teachers and offer feedback.
- Observe acts of worship led by children to monitor their participation and response.
- Monitor standards and developments in Collective Worship and discuss these with the Head Teacher, the Parish Priest, representatives of the Methodist Chapel and governors.

##### **Communication:**

- Communicate to members of the school community the significance and content of Acts of Collective Worship.
- Support colleagues in the delivery of acts of worship as appropriate.
- Encourage positive attitudes towards Collective Worship
- Inform newly appointed colleagues of school policy regarding Collective Worship.
- Communicate with parents, governors and the parish community.
- Liaise regularly with the parish priest and Methodist Minister.

##### **Resources:**

- Regularly audit resources for collective worship in consultation with the school's R.E Co-ordinator.
- Develop resources available for Collective Worship including visual aids, artefacts, music, visitors, new and relevant books etc.