

Central:

Trust-wide policy, applicable at trust and school levels. Schools may not make any changes or adaptations

Collective Worship Statement

Community School



**Burford
Primary School**
'Respect, Aspire, Achieve'

Approved by:	Ethos & Governance Committee
Date:	September 2024
Next review date:	September 2027

Adopted by school:	February 2025
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ODST Statement for Collective Worship in Community Schools

Legal Requirements - Schools without a religious designation

In accordance with the law Burford Primary School provides a daily act of worship for all pupils which is mainly Christian in character but also reflects the religious backgrounds represented in our community.

We consider it important that collective worship in our schools is inclusive of pupils who don't come from Christian families, and that it is reflective of a range of Christian denominations, as appropriate.

These principles are outlined on pages 21 and 22 of the [collective worship guidance](#). DfE 1994

Aims

Collective Worship in ODST community schools is planned:

- to be inspiring, inclusive, invitational* and engaging
- to deepen understanding of our school values
- to deepen our understanding of Christian traditions found in the UK and worldwide
- to challenge everyone, regardless of background to understand and embark on their own spiritual journey
- to develop an appreciation and understanding of the value of prayer, reflection and stillness
- to develop a sense of the spiritual, creating opportunities to wonder and respond to something beyond the everyday
- to praise, celebrate and give thanks
- to acknowledge significant achievements and mark significant occasions within the school, local and international community

Withdrawal from Collective Worship

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from acts of worship. We comply with any request from a parent to withdraw their child. However, in view of inclusive nature of our collective worship, we hope that all children in our school will participate and that anyone wishing to withdraw their child will discuss this with the headteacher before making their decision. Any queries about withdrawal from collective worship should be directed to the headteacher. Following a conversation with the headteacher, parents should confirm this request in writing.

We acknowledge that teachers also have the right to withdraw from collective worship. Collective worship cannot be used as part of a teacher's planning, preparation and assessment (PPA) time. Any member of staff wishing to withdraw from worship should discuss their wishes with the headteacher. Should a member of staff still seek to withdraw following this discussion, they should provide written notice to the headteacher.

Visitor Involvement in Worship

We sometimes invite visitors to participate in and lead our worship. We liaise with them beforehand so that they are clear about the aims of our collective worship and our school values. In general, the headteacher is consulted before a visiting speaker is confirmed.

Monitoring and Evaluation of Worship

We evaluate our acts of collective worship and the impact they have on the school. Everyone who leads worship is asked to evaluate continuously, reflecting on how they can improve and develop their practice. We welcome the views of all those who participate in our worship, including parents and visitors. These views and any suggestions help us to continue to develop and enrich our collective worship offer.

This statement will be reviewed regularly in line with the school's procedures, at least every three years.