



CONDOVER C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL

*Love each other and know we are loved
(John 13:34-35)*



Policy: Collective Worship

Date: September 2025

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Chair of LAB: Chris Breakall

Review date: September 2026

"Love each other and know we are loved"

(John 13:34-35)

Introduction - The Place of Collective Worship at Condover CE Primary School

Collective Worship lies at the heart of every school day. Worship is based upon a foundation that shows an awareness of God's love for all within the school community. Our Collective Worship seeks to focus within the context of Christian belief, an understanding of the significance of faith and values.

The aims and purpose of collective worship are:

To enable the school community to develop as honest and caring individuals within a Christian context. Through Collective Worship a sense of belonging is created which provides a foundation to develop core Christian values. We affirm and celebrate ideals and values that we hold to be of central importance to us as a worshipping community. At our schools, we aim to ensure that Collective Worship:

- provides an opportunity for everyone to worship God, if they choose to and experience awe and wonder
- reflects on the school's vision, values and ethos
- enable children to consider spiritual and moral issues
- enable children to explore their own beliefs
- encourage participation and response
- encourage children to value a sense of togetherness in worship through experience
- promote a common ethos with shared Christian values of; Love, trust and forgiveness and in doing so reinforce positive attitudes
- allow children to explore different styles of worship
- acknowledge and respect difference and diversity
- celebrates special times in the Christian calendar
- celebrates and give thanks for the achievements within school and the local and international community
- provides opportunities to share with others flourishing moments

Our Vision

"Love each other and know we are loved" (John 13:34-35)

This vision statement, deeply rooted in Christian theology, encapsulates who we are: a loving and caring school community where all are happy, valued and respected.

We feel that it is really important all children and adults feel loved and supported as part of one family, through trusting relationships in a secure environment. At the heart of this vision is the understanding that God loves us and we seek to reflect this love through our actions as a school community and as individuals. Loving relationships between the children, our two schools Conover and St Edward's and within our church community are the foundations of success. The mental health and well-being of everyone in our school takes place from these strong foundations and therefore ensures personal growth.

Additionally, we encourage children to explore their own spirituality and wonder about life's big questions in a supportive and nurturing environment.

The Bible reminds us

John:13 34-35 - 'A new command I give you, love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another'.

Mark 12: 31 - 'Love your neighbour as yourself.'

1 John 4: 4 - 'We love because he first loved us'.

Proverbs 27:19 – 'As water reflects the face, so one's life reflects the heart'.

Our Christian Values

Love

1 Corinthians 16:14

'Show love in everything you do'

Love is at the heart of everything we do, and it defines who we are as a community. You can see it in how we treat one another in school and creating a caring atmosphere where everyone feels welcome. We value our neighbours and gain a better understanding of the challenges people face, both in our local area and around the world. This approach encourages our pupils to see how they can make a positive impact within our school and beyond. Through the curriculum, we aim to raise awareness of social issues while teaching respect and kindness. Love is what guides us as a school family, helping us all to be part of a wider family and nurturing a supportive environment for everyone.

Trust

Luke 16:10

'Anyone who can be trusted in little matters can also be trusted in important matters.'

Trust is a core value that underpins all aspects of our school community. Inspired by the words, *"Anyone who can be trusted in little matters can also be trusted in important matters"* (Luke

16:10), we believe that trust begins with the small, everyday actions of honesty, responsibility, and reliability. In our collective worship, we encourage pupils to understand that building trust in the little things—like keeping promises, telling the truth, and showing respect—lays the foundation for being trusted with greater responsibilities in life and school, like trusted positions in classes and committees. This value helps us create a safe, supportive environment where everyone can flourish, knowing they are valued and relied upon. Trust strengthens our relationships, deepens our faith, and shapes us into thoughtful, dependable individuals.

Forgiveness

Ephesians 4:42

‘Instead, be kind and merciful, and forgive others, just as God forgave you because of Christ.’

At our school, forgiveness is one of our core Christian Values. We learn that everyone makes mistakes, and it’s important to say sorry, forgive others, and make things right again. Ephesians 4:32 reminds us to be kind and merciful, and to forgive others just as God forgives us. Forgiveness helps us build strong, loving relationships and keeps our school a happy and caring place. When we forgive, we let go of hurt and choose peace, just like Jesus teaches us.

The Prodigal Son, or better – The Loving Father – Luke 15: 11-32 (NRSVue)

Jesus continued: “There was a man who had two sons. The younger one said to his father, ‘Father, give me my share of the estate.’ So he divided his property between them. “Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything. When he came to his senses, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants. So he got up and went to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him. The son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ But the father said to his servants, ‘Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let’s have a feast and celebrate. For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’ So they began to celebrate. Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on. ‘Your brother has come,’ he replied, ‘and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.’

The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him. But he answered his father, 'Look! All these years I've been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours who has squandered your property, comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!'

'My son,' the father said, 'you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.'"

Jesus tells this story, in amongst some teaching about how we have a relationship with God the Father. The writer, Luke, is a gentile, and is writing for a gentile audience – he has an emphasis, throughout his whole Gospel, on demonstrating that Jesus came for ALL people, not just the Jewish people. As a school we seek to enable each and every child and adult in the school community to reach their full potential.

The younger brother, in demanding his share of the inheritance, breaks the 5th Commandment (of the 10) dishonouring his father. However, the loving father allows his free will, enabling the younger son to make his own choices & mistakes, which leads to some important learning. As educators we seek to enable each child's learning, giving them the confidence to question, take risks, make mistakes and learn from their own experiences.

The loving father breaks all cultural expectations – he runs to meet his errant son, instead of waiting for the younger son to come and beg for forgiveness. It would be seen as undignified for him to hitch his robe to run along the road when he sees his son in the distance. As a school we are willing to reach out to those in need, to be proactive rather than simply reacting to circumstances as they arise.

The father cares for both sons, reassuring the older brother that he is loved as much as the younger errant son. As a school community we seek to know each child as an individual, celebrating their individual achievements, and enabling them to explore their own interests and develop their knowledge and skills.

Statutory Requirements Collective Worship

Condover CE Primary School is distinctly Christian and reflects Anglican traditions. As a Church of England Aided School, Collective Worship follows the legal requirements, detailed in the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Evaluation Document

- Collective Worship is conducted in accordance with the provision of the Trust Deeds of the school
- The trustees/LAB should ensure that all pupils each day engage meaningfully in a real act of Christian worship which is in accordance with the faith and practice of the Church
- Arrangements for Collective Worship are the responsibility of the trustees/LAB, after consulting with the Head teacher
- All acts of worship must be Christian in character

- All pupils (apart from those whose parents exercise the right to withdraw), must on each school day take part in an act of collective worship

Right of Withdrawal

We aim to make Collective Worship relevant and meaningful to all within the school communities; for those who have a faith background and those who have none. Worship is regarded as a special time which wholly reflects upon our ethos as Church Schools. It is an inclusive opportunity, but we respect the right of parents/guardians to withdraw their children from Collective Worship. Parents wishing to request a withdrawal will meet with the head teacher to discuss concerns. After an initial discussion with the head teacher, withdrawal can then be confirmed in writing. Alternative worship will not be provided but pupils will be supervised during this time.

Organisation and planning of Collective Worship

The staff place Collective Worship at the centre of daily life. It is a time when we come together to share Christian values and experiences of our everyday lives. A time to develop the spiritual, moral, social and cultural understanding of our pupils. Collective Worship is organised by the whole school and is led by different members of the teaching staff, pupils, visiting church ministers/groups. This enables us to provide an exciting and varied approach towards our Collective Worship and greatly enhances our school’s Christian character. Collective Worship is based on the Vision statement, Christian values and the liturgical calendar. Each term, we explore different values during Collective Worship, in lessons and during everyday school life. This enables all children in school to develop a better understanding of each value, its meaning and how it will impact their lives.

We meet daily for Collective Worship, as a whole school, On Fridays we welcome parents and carers to celebration collective worship.

Our worship consists of 4 stages:

- Gathering-we welcome the community (with music, a candle, cross and Bible)
- Engaging-with something new each week(a Bible reading, activity to engage with the Christian message)
- Responding-pray, reflect and sing
- Sending out-share (reflecting upon the message of the worship, taking the learning into life) school prayer, music, put out candle.

We value our links with our local church communities and hold Harvest, Christmas, Easter and Leavers services in their places of worship.

Leaders from our local church communities lead worship regularly in our schools.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
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Whole school Introduce Bible story- Staff	Whole School Church – led Or linked to Bible story	Whole School Singing	Whole school Children’s Worship Committee linked to Bible story	Celebration Assembly led by SLT
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Reflection and evaluation of Collective Worship

Collective Worship will be monitored by the Head of School, and the Worship Committee.

Monitoring and evaluation strategies are also used by the staff to assess outcomes for the Collective Worship.

The main strategies are:

- Verbal feedback from pupils, staff, parents, visitors.
- Observation of pupils’ interest, reactions and engagement during Collective Worship.
- The level of pupils’ behaviour towards each other, to all adults in the school and within the school community.
- Evaluation forms