



**Ashton St. Peter's Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School
Diocese of St. Albans**

**Collective Worship
Ratified January 2026
Update January 2027**

Ashton St Peter's: Finding the keys to life and learning.

Jesus said to Peter 'I am giving you the keys to the Kingdom of Heaven' Matthew 16:19

Rationale

Where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them."

Matthew 18:20

Collective worship is at the heart of our school life as a small Church of England community. Guided by our vision of '**Finding the keys to life and learning,**' collective worship provides a daily opportunity for our school family to gather, reflect and grow spiritually.

Rooted in the Christian faith, our worship reflects the teaching of Jesus that God is present when we come together:

"Where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them" (Matthew 18:20).

Through collective worship, we seek to help children discover the keys that open understanding, hope and wisdom, enabling them to flourish both in their learning and in life.

Our collective worship is a time to explore and embrace our Christian values of **appreciation, love, positivity, forgiveness, honesty and respect**. Through Bible stories, prayer, music and moments of stillness, pupils are encouraged to reflect on how these values shape their relationships, choices and actions within school and beyond.

Collective worship is inclusive and invitational. While it is distinctly Christian in character, it respects the diversity of belief within our community and offers all pupils the opportunity to engage in a way that is meaningful to them. In this way, collective worship supports our aim of nurturing thoughtful, compassionate and respectful individuals who are equipped with the keys they need for life and learning.

Legal Requirement

Collective Worship in this school is provided in accordance with the Education Act 1944 and the Education Reform Act 1988, which require all registered pupils to take part in a daily act of Collective Worship. As a Church of England school, worship is wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character and reflects the teachings and traditions of the Church of England.

Parents have the right to withdraw their child from Collective Worship, either in full or in part, by making a written request to the Headteacher.

From the Trust deed

Ashton St Peter's VA C of E Primary School aims to serve its community by providing an education of the highest quality within the context of Christian belief and practice. It encourages an understanding of the meaning and significance of faith and promotes Christian values through the experience it offers to all its pupils. Our Trust deed states that religious instruction shall be given in accordance with the doctrines, rites and practices of the Church of England.

Aims (Education Reform Act 1988)

The aims and purpose of Collective Worship as defined by the Education Reform Act 1988 are as follows:

- To provide an opportunity for the children to worship God
- To enable children to consider spiritual and moral issues
- To enable children to explore their own beliefs
- To encourage participation and response
- To develop in children a sense of community spirit
- To promote a common ethos with shared values and to reinforce positive attitudes

Aims (Ashton St Peter's)

In addition to the above at Ashton St Peter's we aim to:

- Provide a daily opportunity for pupils and staff to gather, reflect, and grow spiritually.
- Explore and celebrate Christian values, including **appreciation, love, positivity, forgiveness, honesty and respect.**
- Support pupils in developing a sense of community, belonging, and mutual respect.
- Encourage personal reflection, prayer, and stillness, helping pupils consider their own beliefs and experiences.
- Inspire pupils to live out Christian teachings and apply them in their relationships, choices, and learning.
- Class worship provides a smaller, reflective space where pupils can engage personally with Christian values and reflect on their own experiences.

The Priory Church of St Peter.

At Ashton St Peter's Primary School, we enjoy a close partnership with The Priory Church of St Peter. While we do not currently have a resident reverend, church representatives and local clergy regularly lead Collective Worship and support staff in delivering meaningful and engaging experiences.

End-of-term services are held at the church. These events are highly valued by children, staff, parents, and carers, helping to strengthen our school's Christian ethos and sense of community.

Values

At Ashton St Peter's Primary School, our Christian values—**appreciation, love, positivity, forgiveness, honesty, and respect**—are explored through Collective Worship. Each value is linked to a Bible memory verse, which is introduced, reflected upon, and prayed with during worship.

- Memory verses change each term to give pupils fresh opportunities to engage with scripture and the values it teaches.
- Pupils are encouraged to learn and reflect on each verse, helping them to apply the Christian values in their daily lives.
- The Collective Worship Team helps to choose the memory verses, giving pupils a voice in shaping worship and ensuring that the verses are meaningful and relevant to the whole school community. This approach ensures that Collective Worship is directly connected to the school's values, providing a spiritual focus for reflection and discussion.

Planning and Organisation

Collective Worship is a daily part of school life at Ashton St Peter's Primary School. It is carefully planned to ensure it is inclusive, invitational, and inspiring, reflecting the school's Christian ethos and values.

Worship is organised to include:

- Whole-school Collective Worship in the hall, led by staff, church representatives, or visiting clergy, providing opportunities for shared reflection, singing, prayer, and exploring Christian values.
- Class Worship, where pupils and teachers gather in classrooms to reflect on Christian values and scripture. Picture News is used to explore current affairs and link them to the Bible, helping pupils connect faith with real-life issues.
- Termly pupil-led worship, where each class plans and leads a worship session for the school community. Parents and carers are invited to attend these services, celebrating pupils' learning and spiritual growth.
- Special services and celebrations, including end-of-term services and major Christian festivals, some of which are held at Priory Church of St Peter and led by reverends or church representatives.

Pupil Involvement

At Ashton St Peter's Primary School, pupils play an active role in Collective Worship. Opportunities for involvement include:

- Leading worship: Each class has a term where they plan and lead a worship session for the school community, sharing reflections, readings, prayers, or songs.
- Collective Worship Team: Pupils help choose Bible memory verses, suggest themes, and provide feedback on worship sessions.
- Reading and reflection: Pupils may read Bible passages, lead prayers, or share personal reflections during worship.
- Special services: Pupils actively participate in end-of-term services and festival celebrations, often held at Priory Church of St Peter, helping to strengthen the school's sense of community. Through these opportunities, pupils develop confidence, leadership skills, and spiritual understanding, and take ownership of their learning about Christian values, faith, and the wider world.

Inclusion

At Ashton St Peter's Primary School, Collective Worship is inclusive and invitational, ensuring all pupils, regardless of faith, background, ability, or sensory needs, can participate in a way that is meaningful to them. Worship is adapted as necessary to support every learner, while respecting the diversity of beliefs within the school community and maintaining the school's Christian ethos.

Monitoring and evaluation

At Ashton St Peter's Primary School, the quality and impact of Collective Worship are regularly monitored and evaluated to ensure it is meaningful, inclusive, and supports the school's Christian values.

Monitoring may include:

- Observations of worship sessions by the Headteacher or staff.
- Feedback from pupils, including the Collective Worship Team, to understand their experiences and suggestions.
- Reflections on pupil engagement, participation, and understanding of Christian values.
- Regular review of planning, themes, and memory verses to ensure they remain relevant and inspiring.

Findings from monitoring are used to inform future planning, support staff development, and ensure that Collective Worship continues to meet the spiritual, moral, social, and cultural needs of all pupils.

Review Procedures

The School's policy will be reviewed:

- Annually

- When the School wishes to review the policy.
- If amendments are required by the LA

Ratified by: *David Bower*
Headteacher

Date: April 2026