Sedlescombe Church of England Primary School

Collective Worship Policy

2025 - 2026

Adopted	September 2025
Review Cycle	Annual
Review Date	Academic Year 2026-2027

Sedlescombe Church of England Primary School

Vision and Values

Motto:

Learning, Loving and Growing Together with God

Values:

Aspiration	Honesty	Forgiveness
Courage	Thankfulness	Kindness

Vision:

Our school is a family where curiosity is the seed of all growth, and everyone is nurtured and challenged to learn and grow as a unique individual. Where enquiring minds are developed in a safe, loving environment where everyone belongs and is loved by God.

"I can do everything through Him who gives me strength"
Philippians 4:13

1. Purpose and Scope

This policy ensures that all children experience a meaningful daily act of collective worship in accordance with legal requirements and our ethos as a Church of England school. It sets out how Collective Worship (CW) enables all members of our community to flourish and to develop spiritually, morally, socially and culturally, and how it expresses our theologically rooted Christian vision.

2. Our Christian Vision and Theological Rationale

Our school is a family with God at its heart. Guided by our values—Aspiration, Honesty, Forgiveness, Courage, Thankfulness and Kindness—we aim to create an invitational, inclusive and inspiring worshipping life in which pupils and adults can encounter Christian faith, explore Gospel narratives and reflect deeply on life's big questions.

3. Aims and Objectives of Collective Worship

Collective Worship is central to Sedlescombe CE Primary and permeates school life. It is deeply Christian, rooted in Scripture and the person of Jesus Christ, and reflects Anglican tradition. We aim for pupils to leave us with a rich experience and understanding of Christianity, while honouring the integrity of those of other faiths and no faith.

The aims of Collective Worship are to:

- Provide pupils with an opportunity to worship God and to experience Christian worship in an inclusive and welcoming context.
- Offer time and space for prayer, silence and reflection—a daily "breathing space" in the life of the school.
- Explore our Christian vision and values and the wisdom of the Bible, including understanding of the Trinitarian nature of God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
- Celebrate the life and work of the school and develop awe, wonder, reverence and respect.
- Invite pupils to consider theological and moral issues; to understand repentance, forgiveness and reconciliation; and to express praise and thanksgiving.
- Promote community, participation and pupil leadership, with opportunities for pupils to plan, lead and evaluate worship.
- Be distinct from everyday activities while remaining accessible, enjoyable and engaging for all.

4. Statutory Context and Rights

We provide a daily act of collective worship for all registered pupils. In a Church of England school, worship reflects our Anglican foundation.

Parents have the legal right to withdraw their child from collective worship; the school will respect this right and offer a suitable reflective alternative.

Worship is organised regarding the ages, aptitudes and family backgrounds of pupils and normally takes place on school premises accept at time of Christian festivals e.g. Harvest, Christmas and Easter when it takes place at church.

5. Organisation and Form of Worship

Acts of worship are planned to ensure high-quality learning experiences using a variety of modes, including but not limited to:

- Scripture
- Rich texts
- Images and pictorial representations
- Silence
- Music
- Art
- Liturgical responses
- Inspirational figures.

Over the year pupils will encounter the richness and variety of Anglican worship and the Christian calendar (Harvest, Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, Pentecost).

Each act includes: a welcome and gathering; engagement with a theme or rich text; time for reflection; and a response (prayer, music, action).

A visual focus is used where possible (candle, cross, colour/cloth, artefacts, images or a simple installation).

Entry/exit music supports a calm, reverent atmosphere; expectations for movement and conduct are explicitly taught and revisited.

Music and singing are central; hymn/song choices are theologically appropriate and age appropriate.

6. Weekly Worship Pattern at Sedlescombe

To secure breadth, depth and participation, we follow this rhythm:

- **Monday – Class Worship using Picture News**
  Picture News is built around a single powerful image and big question which encourages pupils to form their own opinions and aims to move collective worship away from "right answers" towards thoughtful reflection based on multiple viewpoints.

  Picture News uses current, real-world stories that allow pupils to see that worship connects directly to life beyond school. They can also recognize that faith has something to say about the world today and begin to see themselves as agents of change.

  Teachers should make sure that there is a change in atmosphere ahead of class Worship e.g. change in lighting, clam and reflective music. A candle should be lit and a gathering response used such as: "This is the day that the Lord has made."

  Class worship should finish with a prayer or moment of reflection.

- **Tuesday – Singing Worship**
  Whole-school singing worship led by Music Lead or singing lead linked to Christian festivals and school values.
  Attention to the theology of lyrics, posture in worship, and pupil leadership (readers, prayers, signing, percussion).

- **Wednesday, Thursday, Friday – Rich Texts using Windows–Mirrors–Doors**
  Windows: encounter awe/wonder and the wider world (images, poetry, testimonies, Bible story).
  Mirrors: guided reflection and quiet; questions to think and talk about.
  Doors: response and action—commitments, kindness pledges, service projects.
  Prayers and blessings are invitational; the Lord's Prayer and school prayer are used appropriately.

7. Termly Themes and Bible Links

- **Term 1: Thankfulness**
  Key Scripture: Ephesians 5 verses 19-20
  'Sing and make music in your heart, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus.'
- **Term 2: Kindness**
  Key Scripture: Colossians 3 verse 12
  'As God's chosen people clothe yourself with …. Kindness'
- **Term 3: Aspiration**
  Key Scripture: Matthew 19 verse 26
  'With God all things are possible.'

- **Term 4: Forgiveness**
  Key Scripture: Colossians 3 verse13
  'Forgive as the Lord forgave you.'
- **Term 5: Honesty**
  Key Scripture: Luke 16 – The parable of the shrewd manager verse 10:
  'Whoever can be trusted with very little, can also be trusted with much.'
- **Term 6: Courage**
  Key Scripture: Deuteronomy 31verse 6
  'Be strong and courageous...for the Lord God goes with you, he will never leave you or forsake you'

8. Planning and Resourcing

Long-term planning is coordinated by the Worship Lead with clergy and the Headteacher; it reflects the liturgical year, Sedlescombe values and RE enquiries.

Medium-term plans include theme, Scripture/rich texts, music, questions and roles for pupil leaders.

Weekly plans identify inclusivity/SEND adjustments and opportunities for pupil participation and evaluation.

Termly theme communications and at-home prompts are shared with families via newsletters/website.

9. Monitoring, Evaluation and Impact

Pupil voice (surveys, circle interviews), staff feedback and worship journals/floor books inform improvement.
Leaders and governors undertake learning walks and occasional observations across different groupings.
Simple records are kept: theme, leader, Scripture/rich text, pupil participation, adjustments and next steps.
An annual report on worship is presented to governors by the Worship Lead/RE Lead.

10. Prayer and Spiritual Spaces

Prayer is invitational and child-friendly, balancing praise, thanksgiving with opportunities for silence.

Pupils contribute written prayers; responses may be used (e.g., call-and-response blessings).

Reflection/prayer areas are maintained in classrooms and shared spaces; seasonal prayer stations may be set up indoors or outdoors.

11. Church and Community Links

Regular contributions from parish clergy and church partners, including occasional services in church (e.g., Harvest, Christmas, Easter) by agreement.

Service to the wider community through visits, singing, and pupil-led charity or eco-projects.

12. Inclusion, SEND and EAL

Worship is inclusive and accessible. Adjustments include visual schedules, seating, sensory breaks and multi-modal engagement.

Language is explained simply; visuals and actions support understanding; pupil choice is respected.

13. Right of Withdrawal

We value worship as a communal practice that expresses our foundation as a Church school. Parents retain the right to withdraw their child from collective worship. We invite any parent considering withdrawal to meet with the Headteacher to discuss our approach and alternatives. Pupils who are withdrawn are supervised and offered appropriate reflective activities.

16. Review

This policy is reviewed annually by the Worship Lead, Headteacher and RE Link Governor, with input from parish clergy and pupil Worship Leaders.