



# The Minster School

## Worship Policy

Approved by:	Revd James Halstead	Date: 06.02.2024
	Chair SD&P Committee	
Last reviewed:	Spring 2024	
Next review due by:	Spring 2025	

*Succeeding Together*

*"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as though you were working for the Lord" Colossians*

*3:23*

# **The Minster School**

## **Policy on Worship**

### **School ethos**

#### **Succeeding Together**

Enabling all members of our school community to work together, care for each other and strive to realise their potential in their studies and all other aspects of life.

We believe in providing opportunities for all to explore and develop their own beliefs and values whilst reflecting on the relevance of Christian beliefs to their lives.

- We work together to create a culture in which students are proud of their achievements, are happy with who they are and feel supported by those around them.
- We engender a sense of belonging for every student; to feel part of our community and to achieve their potential; to develop their character and to grow and learn together.
- We create a culture where students can meet together and overcome the challenges presented by a desire to succeed and everyday life.
- We encourage all members of our community to be positive role models, leading by example and inspiring others through their words and actions.

*“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as though you were working for the Lord.”  
Colossians 3:23.*

These principles are based on our Christian foundation as a Church school and the belief that every one of us is a child of God and created in His image.

These are underpinned by our 5 key virtues:

- **Wisdom**
- **Optimism**
- **Resilience**
- **Kindness**
- **Service**

### **Worship**

As a Church of England school, we believe in providing opportunities for all students to explore and develop their own beliefs and values whilst reflecting on the relevance of Christian principles to their lives.

Opportunities are built into the wider curriculum to allow students to explore the Christian faith in more detail, through regular Acts of Worship as well as half termly invitational services and End of Term services which are led by the school Chaplain. The curriculum encourages students to reflect on these themes through one of 3 lenses.

- To support and develop their own Christian faith.
- In exploring their own beliefs and faith journey.
- As human values, reflecting on the importance of them in their own lives.

Worship in school is led by the school Chaplain and the Curriculum Team Leader for Christian Distinctiveness. They are supported by a wider team of chaplaincy volunteers including members of the local Baptist, Methodist and Riverside church as well as Southwell Minster and other local Anglican churches as appropriate.

Although worship at the Minster School will be mainly Christian, both in character and content, materials from other religions and belief systems will be included, and every effort will be made to treat such content with integrity and sensitivity.

As a Church school we offer a range of opportunities for students to reflect on, explore and deepen their faith in relation to, the Christian virtues that are at the heart of the school, Biblical teachings, the examples of Jesus and the life of key religious thinkers. These include:

### **Daily acts of collective worship**

Key Stage 2 students will receive a daily act of worship linked to the school's themes as well as additional themes which are appropriate for students in the Junior school. Once a week (Monday) this will involve Junior School students coming together with Year 7 for a joint act of worship. Head of the Junior school, Junior school staff, the school Chaplain and members of the Senior Leadership Team will lead these Acts of Worship.

Key stages 3&4 students explore the theme of the week during tutor time. There are 5 elements to this which build up and complement each other over the course of the week and enable students to explore the key theme and linked Bible verse for the week.

- Collective act of worship – Year group based in the main hall, exploring the theme in detail.
- 1-minute moment – a reflective video to watch and think about the message behind in tutor groups.
- Thought for the week – a 20-minute session which explores the theme with questions, reflection points and links to real world examples.
- Virtual act of worship – recorded act of worship watched collectively in tutor time, which explores the theme in more depth.
- Summary reflection – questions and/or a reflection pulling together what had been explored previously.

Key stage 5 students have a weekly act of worship which explores the theme of the week and relevant Bible verse.

At the end of each term worship culminates in our End of Term services where students participate in a celebration service at the Cathedral (Easter and Christmas) or school (summer). These are led by the school chaplain and include prayers, Bible readings, songs, a talk and reflection as well as more interactive elements. Again, students are encouraged to access them through one of the 3 stated lenses.

The school also provides additional voluntary opportunities for students to explore their own faith and engage in worship activities. These include:

- Invitational services – twice a half term students are invited to a service – either communion or a worship service. Communion services are led by the Chaplain and use Anglican liturgy. Students are encouraged to receive communion if they do so in their own church and if not to receive a blessing or to just reflect on the meaning of the words for their own lives. Worship services are less formal and more interactive in style. Both services involve worship, prayer and reflection on the Bible.
- School Chaplain drop in – students can request to meet with the school Chaplain who will provide spiritual, emotional and welfare support. These may be one off or regular appointments.

Students also have the opportunities to explore the practical application of worship through charity groups and service opportunities.

### **Right of Withdrawal**

If the parent of any student requests the student's withdrawal from attendance at religious worship in the school the student should be excused until the request is withdrawn. (Section 9.3 of the 1988 Education Act).

### **Quality assurance**

Quality assurance will be carried out to ensure that school worship:

- Provides meaningful opportunities for reflection, exploration and/or deepening of faith.
- Is relevant to the lives of students as well as to current issues faced within society.
- Includes student participation.
- Is consistently delivered to a high standard whilst encouraging providers to adapt their approaches and use a variety of mediums and styles.
- Has a Biblical basis and allows students to explore key themes within a Christian context.
- Sits alongside the school's beliefs in *equality, diversity, kindness and respect in how to treat others and in the way we serve our friends, the school and wider society.*

Quality assurance will be led by the Curriculum Team leader for Christian distinctiveness and the Deputy head responsible for worship. This will predominantly involve student voice and learning walks.

**Policy written by:** A Wall, Spring 2019

**Reviewed by** A Wall 8<sup>th</sup> January 2024