



The Minster School

Worship Policy

Approved by: David Shannon **Date:** 27/01/2026

Chair of Governors

Last reviewed: Spring 2026

Next review due by: Spring 2027

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 opt in worship events such as Flourish 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 staff, student leaders and chaplaincy volunteers.

Worship in school will be Distinctly Christian in nature whilst also being inclusive of other religions, beliefs and values. 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 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 and the school Chaplain 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 5-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:

Flourish events – this is aimed at creating a worshipping community in school. Weekly meetings take place which include worship events and leadership tracks in the areas of worship and preaching. Flourish runs after school and is open to all students in Years 7-13. Alongside this additional opt in services take place such as school Communion services which are led by the Chaplain with a member of clergy presiding 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.

- 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 7th January 2026