Oxford Diocesan Schools Trust
St Mary's Convent
Denchworth Road, Wantage
Oxford, OX12 9AU
odst.governance@oxford.anglican.org
www.odst.org.uk

Central:	Trust-wide policy, applicable at trust and school levels. Schools may not make any changes or adaptations

Collective Worship Statement Community Schools

New Town Primary School

Approved by:	**Ethos & Governance Committee**
Date:	**June 2026**
Next review date:	**31 July 2029**

Adopted by school:	**LGB – New Town Primary School**
Date:	**October 2026**

Legal Requirements - Schools without a religious designation

In accordance with the law our school provides a daily act of worship for all pupils which is mainly Christian in character but also reflects the religious backgrounds represented in our community.

We consider it important that collective worship in our schools is inclusive of pupils who don't come from Christian families, and that it is reflective of a range of Christian denominations, as appropriate.

These principles are outlined on pages 21 and 22 of the collective worship guidance, DfE 1994

Aims

Collective Worship in ODST community schools is planned:

- to be inspiring, inclusive, invitational* and engaging
- to deepen understanding of our school values
- to deepen our understanding of Christian traditions found in the UK and worldwide
- to challenge everyone, regardless of background to understand and embark on their own spiritual journey
- to develop an appreciation and understanding of the value of prayer, reflection and stillness
- to develop a sense of the spiritual, creating opportunities to wonder and respond to something beyond the everyday
- to praise, celebrate and give thanks
- to acknowledge significant achievements and mark significant occasions within the school, local and international community

Withdrawal from Collective Worship

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from acts of worship. We comply with any request from a parent to withdraw their child without delay. The grounds for withdrawal do not have to be justified or explained by parents. Should children be withdrawn, the school will provide adequate supervision to ensure their safety. Children should not be withdrawn from acts of worship for other purposes (e.g. reading, music lessons)

We acknowledge that teachers also have the right to withdraw from collective worship. Collective worship cannot be used as part of a teacher's planning, preparation and assessment (PPA) time. Any member of staff wishing to withdraw from worship should discuss their wishes with the headteacher.

Visitor Involvement in Worship

We sometimes invite visitors to participate in and lead our worship. We liaise with them beforehand so that they are clear about the aims of our collective worship and our school values. In general, the headteacher is consulted before a visiting speaker is confirmed.

Monitoring and Evaluation of Worship

We evaluate our acts of collective worship and the impact they have on the school Everyone who leads worship is asked to evaluate continuously, reflecting on how they can improve and develop their practice. We welcome the views of all those who participate in our worship, including parents and visitors. These views and any suggestions help us to continue to develop and enrich our collective worship offer.

This statement will be reviewed regularly in line with the school's procedures, at least every three years.