



Worship Policy

Policy number	W1 (formerly 21)
Review Schedule	Every three years
Approved by the Board	July 2020
Reviewed and approved by the Board	July 2023
Reviewed and approved by the Board	May 2026
Date of next review	May 2029

Introduction

Worship is vital to the life of Spiritus College and students' formation. In corporate worship, attention is focused on the God whom the community is learning to love and serve; through it, we offer our lives to God and search for God's living word to us; in it, we express and find our identity as Spiritus College, a particular community of the people of God.

Worship is one of the areas of the Course where faith, gifts and skills will be both appreciated and developed as we seek to be inclusive of different traditions.

Aims

Corporate worship at Spiritus College seeks to meet five different but related aims:

1. To know and experience God.
2. To aid in forming those exploring or preparing for public ministry in the liturgies and traditions of the Church of England.
3. To provide a secure context in which worship may be planned and led collaboratively, using both formal liturgies and innovative forms, and to reflect on this experience.
4. To express the identity, concerns and aspirations of this particular Christian community.
5. To foster a pattern of prayer and worship that will enrich the corporate life of Spiritus College.

The pattern and leadership of corporate worship

During a study weekend there are four occasions when the community gathers to worship together, namely:

- Saturday morning – as the opening activity before teaching begins
- Saturday afternoon – at the end of teaching sessions.
- Sunday morning – a period of guided corporate silence or bible study to start the day
- Sunday morning before departure – a service of Holy Communion

With the exception of the first weekend, when Staff lead all the worship, students are responsible for planning and leading worship on Saturday. This responsibility is allocated to a Formation Group (or groups), whose members then agree how to work together, appropriately overseen by a worship facilitator (a member of Spiritus College staff).

Staff members are responsible for Sunday worship; a member of staff normally presides at the Sunday Eucharist. Suitable provision is made, if necessary, for any student (or member of staff) who as a matter of conscience is unable to receive communion from a female celebrant.

During Lent/Easter School, there is a daily service in the morning which is either a Eucharist or Morning Worship led by a member of staff, an early evening service led by students, and night prayer led by the chaplains. There is a mixture of BCP and CW and services from other parts of the Anglican Communion, and the opportunity for other forms of creative worship.

Preparing corporate worship

Guidelines for students on leading worship are included as an Appendix in the Student Academic Manual and more detailed guidance is available on Moodle.

Feedback on corporate worship

Students are offered feedback after they have led corporate worship. This is provided by the worship facilitators based on input from the wider Spiritus staff team. Guideline questions for feedback are as follows:

1. Was there a clear beginning to the act of worship?
2. Was there a clear end to the act of worship?
3. Did the act of worship 'hold together', e.g. did the different elements of the service fit well together?
4. If in person, did there seem to be an appropriate balance of movement and stillness?
5. If the act of worship was held on online rather than face to face, was the approach to worship appropriate for the online context?

6. Did those involved speak clearly and audibly?
7. What seemed to go especially well within the act of worship?
8. What could be improved upon?
9. Any other comments?

Teaching on leading worship

As well as the experience of leading worship at study weekends, students also explore worship through the following:

- Teaching sessions under the Ministry and Worship module in Year 1
- Input and discussion in formation groups, particularly in Year 1
- Preaching and leading worship in their home parishes and on placement
- Voice assessments together with any necessary follow-up
- Teaching sessions at Lent/Easter School
- The opportunity to serve and act as sacristan at residentials and Lent/Easter School