

Collective Worship Policy

St Andrew's Church of England Primary School

As a church school St Andrew's has a distinctive Christian ethos. We believe that 'Everyone is different. Everyone is special'. As Jesus taught us to love unconditionally, so we strive to nurture respect for all, to provide a rich and stimulating curriculum that considers the individual and to care for the intellectual, social and spiritual well-being of our whole school community - encouraging positive engagement with the wider world, as affirmed through our school values and parable of the Good Samaritan.

Jesus said, "Love the Lord your God ... and, 'Love your neighbour as yourself.'" Luke10:27



At St Andrew's we are committed to keeping pupils and staff safe. Our school policies are an essential part of the way we safeguard all members of our diverse school. We support democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs. These principles help us to listen to each other and learn from each other to create a safe and rich learning environment for pupils and staff alike.

Approved by:	Ethos Committee	Date: 24/1/24
Last reviewed on:	Jan 2024	
Next review due by:	Jan 2026	

St Andrew's C of E Primary School

Collective Worship Policy

Introduction

Collective worship is central to the life of our school. Worship offers the pupils and others in our school an opportunity to reflect on values and issues in the context of our Christian vision and ethos. It is an expression of our vision and shapes our approach to others and to what we do in school. All members of our school community are warmly invited to join our worship.

Our collective worship provides pupils and staff the opportunity to:

- celebrate
 - Christian seasons and festivals
 - school values associated with our vision
- create a reflective approach to life including the exploration of deep questions
- develop as a community centred on our clear and distinctive Christian vision
- experience prayer, stillness, worship and reflection
- grow in understanding of and participation in prayer
- experience a variety of styles of worship
- participate and respond, through active involvement in the planning, leading and evaluation of worship
- feel safe and affirmed
- worship God on their own terms.

Worship will reflect aspects of the curriculum and in particular will:

- nurture spiritual growth
- enable participants to consider moral questions in a Christian context
- enhance social understanding and encourage responses to issues through courageous advocacy
- give participants a chance to reflect on the place and importance of faith in the lives of people today
- encourage participants to explore beliefs drawn from their own cultural heritage
- reflect the teachings of Jesus and a Trinitarian theology.

The Pattern of Collective Worship

Collective worship takes place in a variety of groupings, in the school hall, in classrooms and on occasions outside. On special occasions worship takes place in St Andrew's Parish Church. We follow the seasons of the Church year and, within these, significant festivals and other special days are observed. These always include Harvest, St Andrew's Day, Christmas, Candlemas, Ash Wednesday, Easter, Ascension and Pentecost. Other important days in the calendar such as Remembrance and the Leavers' Service also feature in collective worship.

Whenever worship takes place it is planned to promote participants' thinking beyond the time given to worship itself.

Leading worship

Worship has a variety of leaders from the school community. While it is mostly led by staff or the parish clergy, pupils are given opportunities to lead worship throughout the year. Visitors are welcome to contribute to collective worship from time to time and are given guidance from our Collective Worship Policy.

Planning Acts of Collective Worship

Our acts of worship are carefully planned to ensure a balance between content and experience. Class Collective Worship and Whole-school Collective Worship are linked when this is possible. Leaders, including the children, plan the content and activities included in worship according to what is most appropriate to the season/theme/school values and the needs of the pupils. The themes of worship are chosen to both express and explore our vision and the way in which this vision is experienced in school through the associated values.

Prayer is a vital part of our worship. It is introduced with a form of words that invites but does not coerce pupils to participate. Our prayers are addressed to God reflecting the traditions and practices of the Church of England. Pupils who prefer not to pray are encouraged to use these times to reflect on the important messages shared in our worship.

Our worship is regularly reviewed through discussions with participants, observation and reflection, and our evaluations are fed into the planning for future worship.

A legal note

By law, Collective Worship must:

- be provided for every child every day
- reflect the school's Trust Deed.

Our policy sets out clearly our aspiration that collective worship will be a valuable and valued experience for all members of our school community whatever their backgrounds and beliefs. It is invitational, inclusive and reflective in nature and never coercive or indoctrinatory.

Parents have a right to withdraw their children from all or any acts of worship. In the first instance, parents who may wish to exercise this right should make an appointment to speak with the headteacher.

January 2024