



St Aidan's

Church of England Primary Academy
A member of **CDARI**

'Fulfilling potential and growing in God.'



Acceptance, Love, Wisdom, Accountability, Youthfulness, Service

Collective Worship Policy

2025

Our Christian Vision and Mission at St. Aidan's

At St. Aidan's, our vision is not only for our children to become happy and well-rounded individuals, but to nurture and equip them to be resilient, enthusiastic and effective communicators and learners. We aim to help them use their experiences and technology skills to reach their full potential, excel in the careers of the future and most importantly, to grow in God.

Our mission underpins everything we do at St. Aidan's. We believe our role in education is to provide all children with the very best start in life so that they may experience life in its fullness, regardless of background. Rooted in Christian values and principles – summarised in our school ethos of "ALWAYS" – we strive to develop the full potential of each and every child.

Through the Thrive approach, we promote healthy emotional development, encouraging children to become curious, creative, confident and capable. Our commitment to the transformative use of technology and a talk-rich curriculum supports children in developing critical digital skills and empowers them to use their voice confidently – not only in school, but in the world around them. Rooted in a rich Christian tradition, our vision is guided by:

"I have come that they may have life and have it to the full." — John 10:10

The academy will deliver this by:

- Creating a safe and happy atmosphere for all
- Developing a partnership between parents, staff and pupils
- Fostering strong links between home, the academy and parish
- Placing Christian Values at the heart of our ethos and teaching
- Inspiring a love of learning and educating pupils for life
- Presenting the National Curriculum in a lively and interesting way
- Helping children to learn that courtesy, good manners and consideration for others are important values and encouraging an appreciation of beautiful things
- Providing opportunities to study the Christian faith in a meaningful way.

Christian Values

Our vision is actively lived out through our core Christian values of Acceptance, Love, Wisdom, Accountability, Youthfulness and Service, which shape every part of life at St. Aidan's.



We want every child and adult to discover and develop their unique, God-given talents so that they may flourish as individuals and build strong foundations for a bright future.

Legal and Statutory Framework

St. Aidan's is committed to fulfilling its duty to provide a daily act of collective worship for all pupils, in accordance with the requirements of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 and in line with the faith and practice of the Church of England.

As part of Cidari, the Board of Trustees has overall responsibility for ensuring that collective worship is provided in line with the Christian foundation of the school. Operational responsibility is delegated to the Local Governing Body and Headteacher.

The quality and impact of collective worship is evaluated as part of the SIAMS (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools) process.

Collective Worship

Collective worship is central to school life at St. Aidan's, allowing our community to come together, explore Christian teachings and connect our daily activities with our vision. Worship at St. Aidan's encourages each person to reflect, participate and grow spiritually, whether through prayer, reflection on scripture or the joy of song.

Worship at St. Aidan's is a communal time that invites everyone to participate in ways that feel natural to them, regardless of faith background. We encourage children, staff, parents and visitors to 'pray as you pray' during reflection time in the worship. Respecting the diversity of beliefs in our school, worship is inclusive, providing opportunities for children to reflect, ask questions, and participate at their own comfort level. We involve our children through the Worship Team in planning, leading and evaluating worship to foster a sense of ownership and relevance to their lives.

Aims of Collective Worship

Our daily collective worship aims to:

- Nurture spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.
- Provide opportunities for personal reflection and stillness.
- Encourage a sense of community and belonging.
- Explore the teachings of Jesus and the message of the Bible.
- Celebrate the Church's calendar and key Christian festivals.

- Promote our Christian values of acceptance, love, wisdom, accountability, youthfulness and service.

The Anglican Tradition

Our collective worship reflects the rich heritage of the Church of England by:

- Using Anglican prayers, including the Lord's Prayer.
- Following the Christian liturgical calendar (e.g. Advent, Lent, Easter).
- Incorporating symbols such as candles and crosses.
- Encouraging prayer, stillness and reflection as core components.

We also draw on broader Christian and moral themes that are relevant and meaningful to our diverse school community.

Organisation and Delivery

Collective worship takes place daily and follows this format:

Monday – Windows to the world	Led by the headteacher or deputy
Tuesdays	Led by Reverend Alice
Wednesdays – Prayer and Praise or Talk Worship - Mirrors	Led by the Worship Team or class teacher
Thursdays - Celebration Worship - Doors	Led by the headteacher – parents invited
Fridays	In class worship using resources from the Diocese

Our Collective Worship:

- Music to enter & Christian Values slide show
- Pupils enter quietly to set the tone for worship. This is also modelled by adults
- Greet the pupils with the words, “The Lord be with you.” Response: “And also with you.”
- Light the candle and welcome God the Father, God the Son & God the Holy Spirit into worship
- Song (all stand to sing)
- Planned delivery of theme/story
- Opportunity for all to reflect on a Bible story or ‘big question’
- ‘Pray as we pray’
- Grace
- End of worship signalled by, “Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.” Response: “Thanks be to God.”
- Pupils leave quietly to music and Christian Values slideshow or other image.
- Class worship should follow a similar routine, (although the timings of songs and prayers may vary).

Developing spirituality in worship.

"Windows, mirrors, and doors" is a metaphorical framework we use to develop spirituality and foster reflection and development, where "windows" offer opportunities to look out at the world, "mirrors" provide for introspection and self-reflection, and "doors" encourage action, creative expression, and moving forward in life.

Windows

- * Opportunities for children to be aware of the world in new ways, looking out into the world.
- * To wonder about life's 'WOWS. Things that are amazing.
- * To think about life's 'OWS' that take us by surprise!
- * Learning about life in all its fullness.

Mirrors

- * Opportunities to reflect on their experiences.
- * Looking inside yourself.
- * Consider life's big questions and reach for some possible answers.
- * Learning from life by exploring our own insights and those of others.

Doors

- * Opportunities for children to respond.
- * Moving onto a new path or situation.
- * To do something creative to develop and apply our ideas.
- * Learning to live out our beliefs and values.

A typical worship structure may follow:

- Gathering – welcoming and settling
- Engaging – using story, song, scripture, Big Questions
- Responding – reflection, prayer, stillness, discussion
- Sending – a thought or challenge to take away

We use age-appropriate materials and encourage active pupil involvement in discussions, reading, singing and leading prayer.

Planning and Resources

Worship is coordinated by the Collective Worship Leader in consultation with staff and clergy. Planning reflects:

- The Christian calendar
- School values
- Topical events
- SIAMS and diocesan guidance

Resources include:

- Diocesan materials
- Picture News

- Contributions from the local church and visiting speakers

Inclusivity

Collective worship is designed to be welcoming to all, regardless of faith or belief. It is:

- Invitational – open to participation without pressure.
- Inclusive – respectful of different faiths and none.
- Inspirational – offering moments of wonder, reflection and growth.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Worship is regularly reviewed by:

- Staff and children reflections and evaluations
- Governor visits and observations
- Input from Reverend Alice

Findings inform improvements and ensure worship remains meaningful and relevant.

Links with the Parish and Diocese

We work closely with St, Aidan's Church and members of the clergy regularly lead or support worship. We also celebrate key festivals (e.g. Harvest, Christmas, Easter) in the church and welcome families to attend.

Withdrawal from Worship

Parents wishing to withdraw their child should contact the Headteacher in writing. A meeting can be arranged to discuss alternative arrangements.

Mrs F. Moss

Senior Leader and RE Lead

Reviewed September 2025.

To be reviewed annually or before with updates as needed for compliance with SIAMS and legal requirements for collective worship.