



**Collective Worship Policy**

**January 2018**

## 1. Mission Statement

At St Aidan's we aim to provide a safe, happy Christian environment with a high level of pastoral care for all members of our school community. All our children are unique individuals and our main priority is to develop the full potential of each and every pupil in our academy. We strive to enable everyone to develop their individual skills and talents so that they are all fully prepared to be responsible global citizens.

This underpins the positive ethos we foster as stated in our vision and mission statement:  
***'Fulfilling potential, growing in God'***

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.

## 2. Christian Values

Christian Values are at the centre of the life and work of the academy and have a major impact on relationships and the experiences of all within the academy community. We actively promote Christian Values and seek to foster an environment of spirituality, creativity and respect where everyone is valued and all have equal opportunity to experience *life in its fullness*.

The academy has three core Christian Values taken from Corinthians 13:13:

*'And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.'*

Each core Christian value has four underpinning Values:

### **Faith**

Wisdom  
Koinonia  
Humility  
Trust  
(Spring term)

### **Hope**

Peace  
Endurance  
Thankfulness  
Justice  
(Summer term)

### **Love**

Service  
Compassion  
Forgiveness  
Friendship  
(Autumn term)

## 3. Introduction

At St Aidan's Primary School-A Church of England Academy, we place Christ at the heart of everything we do and this is reflected in our worship. When we gather for worship, we support pupils in understanding the meaning of Christian worship and we hope that believers of all faiths will be able to share in it and that others of no faith will reach the 'threshold of worship'.

#### a) Christian Emphasis

In this Church of England Voluntary Aided Academy, Collective Worship is in conformity with the mission statement and the rites, practices and doctrines of the Church of England as laid down in the Trust Deed.

The Trust Deed states:

In accordance with The Academy Standards and Framework Act, 1998, Section 69 (4) and Schedule 20, section 5, the Collective Worship provided in the academy, in the absence of a Trust Deed, is in accordance with designation of the religious character of the academy by the Secretary of State.

b) Collective Worship contributes to our Mission Statement and therefore to the Christian Education we provide. It also contributes to the celebration and exploration of our Christian Values.

c) The worship and prayer life of the academy is not solely limited to the legally required daily acts of worship: opportunities are taken to use prayer and reflection exercises in the curriculum at the beginning and end of the academy day as well as graces before lunch.

#### d) The Church of England

Forms of worship within our denomination(s) differ and these differences enable us to provide a varied range of approaches to worship whilst remaining true to our Trust Deeds. As well as drawing on our denominational heritage, we also occasionally expect to draw on the rich tapestry of practice in the world-wide Christian Church.

e) The link with our Church, Mill Hill St Aidan's, is vital. The incumbent is a key person who leads worship in school. The Church community are very-much part of our extended academy family and the church building is a place of learning as well as worship.

#### f) Collective Worship and assembly

The academy meets together for Collective Worship but there will be times when we assemble together for other purposes, e.g. important notices and announcements. Such 'assembly' times are legally distinct from Collective Worship and parents' rights to withdraw their children do not apply.

g) Worship in the academy, while reflecting our denomination, will take into account the levels of development of pupils.

h) The provision of Collective Worship conforms to Diocesan policy.

### **4. Aims**

- To ensure worship remains central to the life of the academy
- To contribute to the Mission Statement and aims of the academy
- To create an environment in which pupils and adults have the opportunity to join in worship together, reflect and grow
- To deepen our knowledge and understanding of the Christian faith
- To contribute to the spiritual and moral development of pupils
- To reflect on Values and concerns of the academy community and the community it serves.

## 5. Organisation & Delivery

Collective Worship is a fundamental part academy life and the Local Governing Committee see it as an essential part of all pupils' education. As such, we are concerned to resource it properly and ensure that it is of the highest standard. All available staff will attend every worship. We expect that pupils will be introduced to the key beliefs and aspects of the Christian faith and supported to explore them. These would include:

- The nature of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit;
- The nature of human beings as children of God, part of his creation and, though sinful, destined for eternal life;
- Jesus as the Son of God who, through his life, death and resurrection, broke the power of evil and restored humanity's relationship with God;
- The central Values of forgiveness, selfless love, redemption, goodness, compassion and charity;
- The central place of the Bible as a source of knowledge about God and Jesus and as a source of inspiration and guidance;
- The importance of prayer;
- The central symbols of Christianity;
- The cycle of the Church year.

The following weekly pattern is generally followed:

Day	Who	What	Where	Extra Content	Prayers	Staff
<b>Mon</b>	HT, DHT or a visitor	Bible story Famous Person Moral element	Hall	Manners box Golden Ticket box	Prayer Drill The Lord's Prayer The Grace	All class teachers & all TAs
<b>Tue</b>	Class Teachers	PD-themed work focussing on Christian Values of the term & based on class needs	Classrooms	Class prayer box Reflection Area	Prayer Drill Pupils' Prayers The Grace	Class teachers & Class TAs
<b>Wed</b>	JDG	Praise & Prayer	Hall	Prayer box (pupils' prayers)	Prayer Drill The School Prayer The Grace	Class teachers & other available staff
<b>Thurs</b>	Teacher or Rev Brooks, Class Worship Committee	Termly Christian Values	Hall or Church		Prayer Drill The School Prayer The Grace	All class teachers & other available staff
<b>Fri</b>	DG/KH	Star of the Week Assembly celebrating pupils' achievements	Hall	Stars of the Week Headteacher's Award (for showing any of our 15 Christian Values in action) Lunchtime VIPs Attendance Star Badges Pen Licences Awards from home	Prayer Drill The Lord's Prayer The Grace	All class teachers & all TAs

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 talk through God the Father, God the Son & God the Holy Spirit

- Song (all stand to sing)
- Planned delivery of theme/story
- Opportunity for all to reflect on a Bible story or 'big question'

- 'Prayer Drill' and prayer
- 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).

Reverend Brooks leads worship every other week and the whole academy is invited to worship in Church throughout the year for class-led worship and other 'St Aidan's services'. These are timed to coincide with the major festivals of the church year. Pupils participate in Collective Worship every day. Worship can be led by the Headteacher, Deputy Headteacher, Vicar, Key Stage leaders and class teachers.

Pupils are also involved in preparing and leading worship through class-led worship and the Worship Committee. A worshipful atmosphere is created by the children entering and leaving the hall quietly with appropriate music playing. Slideshows and religious symbols on the alter are used to help the pupils focus on the worship.

Pupils are not regularly withdrawn for other work during worship. The 'Prayer Drill' is used to prepare pupils for prayer during worship. Parents, Governors and friends are invited to join the school in worship each Friday at 2.40pm at the end of every month. At this worship, the good work and behaviour of the pupils is celebrated. A pupil from every class is chosen to receive the Headteacher's Award (certificate and sticker) for showing any of our 15 Christian Values in action. Parents are also invited to attend class-led worship and all school services in church.

Resources:

The purchasing of resources will be delegated to the Collective Worship leader. A budget allowance will be allocated each year. Worship resources take the form of books, CDs, DVDs etc. The Blackburn Diocese 'Year of the Bible' resources, 'Roots and Fruits' and 'Jumping Fish Values for Life' are also used to ensure that key themes from the whole Bible are covered and are also support in with the academy's Christian Values. These are stored in the Headteacher's office.

## **6. Consultation, Management, Recording & Review**

The Collective Worship Lead will coordinate the monitoring and evaluation of Collective Worship at St. Aidan's. Evaluating the impact of worship upon the lives of all our stakeholders is crucial so we can improve and grow ever stronger. We will seek the thoughts of the pupils, staff, parents and Governors. The Worship Committee will also evaluate Collective Worship termly. Collective Worship is part of the annual review of the School Development Plan and, as such, has a budget for resources as needed. The provision of Collective Worship conforms to Diocesan policy.

## **7. Parental rights of withdrawal**

Parents may withdraw their children from Collective Worship and this provision and its limitations are indicated in the academy prospectus. The Worship and Religious Education provided by the academy is in accordance with the Church of England Foundation. This Foundation is also reflected in the curriculum and the whole life of the academy community. Since the conduct of the academy as a whole reflects the Church of England ethos, removal of pupils from Worship and/or Religious Education (as parents are legally entitled to do) cannot insulate pupils from the religious life of the academy.

## **8. Complaints**

It is hoped that any complaint about the provision of Collective Worship will be resolved informally by the Headteacher. If this is not possible, parents should refer to the academy's complaints policy.

The Headteacher is responsible for the implementation and coordination of this policy.

Mrs D Greenwood  
Headteacher & Collective Worship Lead

Reviewed January 2018: Alterations needed to reflect changes to the academy's Christian Values.

To be reviewed annually or before if deemed necessary.