



# St. Andrew's CE Primary School Collective Worship Policy

## **Our Vision**

At St Andrew's CE Primary School, we aim to bring children to a place where they can realise their full potential. Our Christian values are the foundation of all we do and each one is a facet of the central value, love, which 'always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.' (1 Corinthians 13:7)  
This Policy reflects St. Andrew's Church of England Primary School's Christian ethos and mission statement. It was written with our Christian values of Creativity and Perseverance in mind.

The collective worship policy at St. Andrew's CE Primary School reflects the school's Trust Deed and has taken account of the guidance offered by the Diocese of Oxford. Collective worship reflects the mission statement and is central to the life and ethos of the school. It shapes our approach to others and to what we do in school.

## **Intent**

*Article 14: Every child has the right to think and believe what they want and to practise their religion*

- Establishing a sense of belonging to the school and the extensive community with an ability to respect the rights of and be inclusive of others.
- Developing children's spiritual development and moral practice so it impacts on their love of learning and the wider school community.

## **Implementation**

Collective Worship happens in a variety of group sizes allowing children to experience different styles and to express their own spirituality in different ways.

Prayer takes a central role using words that are inclusive but not coercive.

We indicate clearly to all present when worship begins and ends using a variety of strategies eg music, silence etc.

Leaders from faiths in the local area are invited to contribute.

## **Impact**

Children are able to engage with acts of Collective Worship in a meaningful way

Pupils who prefer not to pray will use moments to reflect on the important messages shared in our worship.

Children are able to articulate their ideas and understanding of spirituality

Children are aware of and respect different faiths in the local area.

Children of different faiths are recognised and respected.

## **Aims of collective worship**

Collective worship in St. Andrew's CE Primary School aims to provide the opportunity for pupils and staff to:

- worship God and reflect on Christian values
- experience a variety of styles of worship
- celebrate together e.g. festivals, the School's Christian values, individual achievements
- develop a reflective approach to living which encourages understanding of and invitation to prayer;
- look beyond the physical, material and measurable;
- consider spiritual and moral issues and to explore their own beliefs;
- build a sense of community/foster corporate identity;

- participate and respond, through active involvement in the planning, leading, presentation and evaluation of worship
- feel safe and affirmed in doing any of the above

### **Statutory requirements**

By law, Collective Worship must:

- take place for every child not withdrawn by their parents every day
- reflect the school's Trust Deed

This means that collective worship will reflect the traditions of worship within the Church of England, whilst being invitational, inclusive and valuing of people from all backgrounds and positions of faith.

### **The Contribution of Collective Worship to aspects of the Curriculum**

Collective worship time is distinct from curriculum time given to any subject including religious education. However, in St. Andrew's CE Primary School, we aim to enable collective worship and aspects of children's classroom learning to be mutually supportive.

Collective worship provides opportunities for pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development in line with school policy. To achieve this it addresses a wide variety of themes and topics, uses diverse stimuli and resources and provides pupils with opportunities to 'respond' at their own level.

### **The Management of Collective Worship**

The Governors are responsible for the provision of collective worship, supported by and in consultation with the Headteacher and the SIAMS Development group. The following arrangements exist to co-ordinate, monitor and evaluate collective worship:

1. The Headteacher/Collective Worship Leader, in consultation with the Deputy Headteacher and the St. Andrew's Church Clergy Team, draws up a rota for leading collective worship.
2. Themes for Collective Worship are taken from our eighteen Christian Values (see Appendix 1) and these are shared with our Diocesan partnership school (Aston Rowant CE Primary School) and the clergy team from St. Andrew's Church.
3. The Headteacher/Collective Worship Leader or the Collective Worship Link Governor observes at least six acts of collective worship (from a range of formats) per year to ensure that they comply with school policy and the law.
4. Teacher, pupil and, where appropriate, parental views are collected annually to evaluate the quality and impact of collective worship and to identify ways in which it might be improved.

### **The Organisation of Collective Worship**

Collective worship takes place in a variety of groupings in the school halls, the classrooms, the multi-sensory spiritual garden and in St Andrew's Church (for example, at Christmas, Easter and for Leavers' service in the summer). It also occurs at a variety of times in the day but is always designed to promote thinking beyond the time given to worship itself.

### **Leadership**

Every member of the school staff, pupils, the St. Andrew's Church Clergy Team and occasional visitors will have an opportunity to be involved in participating and/or leading acts of worship at some point during the school year.

### **Planning Acts of Collective Worship**

The content of all acts of collective worship is considered carefully to ensure relevance and suitability for the ages, aptitudes and backgrounds of all pupils.

Termly planning sheets list themes, special occasions and events, but there is flexibility to allow the inclusion of current and topical issues. Weekly planning and recording sheets enable the monitoring and evaluation of acts of worship.

Leaders from faiths within the area help us to increase the pupils' awareness, promote respect and raise the esteem of the pupils who belong to these faiths.

### **The Act of Collective Worship**

We use a variety of styles, active and interactive methods and a range of resources in our acts of collective worship. Leaders make decisions about these elements according to what is most appropriate to the content, the ages, aptitudes and the backgrounds of the pupils.

Prayer is central to our acts of worship. It is introduced with a form of words that invites but does not coerce pupils to participate. Our prayers are addressed to Jesus and 'God' reflecting the traditions and practices of the Church of England. We hope that pupils who prefer not to pray will use these moments to reflect on the important messages shared in our worship.

Collective worship should not be confused with assembly. We occasionally take the opportunity of pupils gathered together to share announcements and notices however this should not detract from the impact of the act of Collective Worship itself. Using a variety of strategies eg music, silence etc we indicate clearly to all present when worship begins and ends.

### **Withdrawal**

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 and reflective in nature and never coercive or indoctrinatory.

Parents have a right to withdraw their children from all or any acts of worship (and staff are also free to withdraw from involvement in this aspect of school life in VC schools)

We request that those who wish to exercise this right inform the Headteacher in writing so that school records are accurate. We also appreciate opportunities to speak with parents and staff who have concerns about collective worship, always keen to develop our understanding of sensitivities and to overcome difficulties where possible. Those pupils who are withdrawn from worship are cared for by a member of the school's staff.

Date reviewed: November 2022

Next review: November 2025

(Signed ) Seb Hearmon  (Chair of Governors)

## Appendix 1 The St. Andrew's CE School's eighteen Christian Values

- Creativity
- Peace
- Trust
- Compassion
- Justice
- Hope
- Courage
- Thankfulness
- Truthfulness
- Forgiveness
- Humility
- Friendship
- Generosity
- Respect and Reverence
- Wisdom
- Perseverance



Primary

- Service
- Responsibility