



# **Collective Worship Policy**

## **St. Andrew's C of E Primary School**

Date approved: February 2023

Date for renewal: February 2025

## Collective Worship Policy

As a Church of England school, we are driven by our core Christian values, which underpin everything we do. Throughout our daily practice, all staff strive to act with integrity, aiming to ensure a consistent and uncompromising adherence to our values:

Excellence

Nurture

Respect

Integrity

Community

Hope

According to section 9 of the 1988 Education Reform Act: "All pupils in attendance at a maintained school shall on each school day take part in an act of collective worship". The law requires that most acts of worship in school are of a "broadly Christian Character". At St Andrew's C of E Primary School, we interpret this as collective worship, which is based on the broad principles and values of Christianity and which is appropriate to pupils whatever their background or personal beliefs.

### Aims of Collective Worship in our school

Collective Worship is a time of reflection, togetherness and sharing for the whole school community. It provides time for children:

- To recognise the importance of Collective Worship time within the school day.
- To reaffirm, interpret and put into practice the values of our school community.
- To worship through prayer and reflection.
- To value and respect the importance of religious beliefs to those who hold them and where possible, a knowledge of other faiths and cultures.
- To reflect upon spiritual and moral issues.
- To widen the child's emotional response.
- To participate and respond in various ways.
- To explore feelings such as awe, wonder, mystery and joy.
- To be a window into the world.
- To involve, as far as possible, families, friends and the local community.
- To celebrate achievements of others in our school community.
- To enable children to explore their own beliefs.
- To encourage participation and response.

### Organisation of Collective Worship

Specific time is set aside daily for Collective Worship. We recognise the importance of marking the act of collective as a special time by lighting a candle, using call and response greetings, asking children to reflect quietly as well as prayer, song and stories.

It is a legal requirement that all children attend Collective Worship unless their parents have exercised their right to withdraw their children from all or parts of worship under the 1988 Education Reform Act. In the event of this occurring, children are suitably occupied under the supervision of an adult. Staff leading the Collective Worship will welcome the children and Revd Eleanor will light candles to act as a focus for the children's thoughts.

Monday –	Whole-school collective worship
Tuesday -	Whole-school choral worship
Wednesday -	Whole-school collective worship led by Revd. Eleanor or Revd. Hannah
Thursday -	Class collective worship
Friday -	Celebration Assembly

### **Assembly themes**

We take the themes of our assemblies from the traditions of the Christian faith and we often reflect the festivals and events of the Christian calendar. The assembly themes link with the themes from Understanding Christianity and the Emmanuel Project and cover other world religions and global issues. Staff and visiting speakers are given a copy of the assembly themes, and each half term's theme is made clear to children via the display materials.

We invite parents to celebration assemblies and our Harvest, Christmas, Easter and end of year services, which take place at St Andrew's Church and are led by Revd Eleanor or Revd. Hannah.

### **What must be included in Collective Worship?**

Each assembly must contain an opportunity for pupils to worship. There should be a time to reflect, respond and revere

**Gathering** - Children usually enter the hall to music linked to the assembly theme.

**Engaging** - Which could involve storytelling, drama or music. This should be an opportunity for children to engage with the Bible and Christian teaching.

**Responding** - Through songs and prayer.

**Sending** - The end of an act of collective worship should be positive to reflect the beginning.

**Monitoring** - How is this working? Assemblies are monitored through pupils' responses via pupil voice survey, informally via discussions and through Governor visits. The Collective worship leader meets termly with a group of children who can represent the school and evaluate their response to assemblies.

### **Community Involvement in Collective Worship**

As well as staff leading collective worship, Revd. Eleanor and Revd. Hannah are involved on a regular basis with the worship programme. Pupils are given the opportunity to lead or participate in leading worship too. There are also termly visits from other visitors, who join us to lead assemblies, for example, the NSPCC and Arthur Rank Hospice.