

St Andrew's Church of England Primary School



With faith, hope and love we can achieve greater things.

***Collective Worship Policy
September 2015 - September 2016***

General Principle

Collective worship is central to the life of St. Andrew's C of E Primary School.

- It offers an opportunity for the whole school community to explore together the distinctive Christian beliefs and narrative that underpins our Anglican foundations and Christian character.
- It allows those present to experience and participate in living expressions of Christian worship that are God centred, affirm Christian beliefs and yet remain inclusive and educational.
- Together we celebrate our Christian values, vision and ethos and reflect upon their contribution to the spiritual, moral, social, and cultural development of participants.
- Worship is inclusive, rooted in the Christian faith, but accessible to all member of the school community.
- It values and honours every individual's unique contribution, regardless of age, gender, ability, background or beliefs.
- The Governing Body in conjunction with the Headteacher, staff, and school community have responsibility to ensure the Trust Deed of the School is honoured.

Aims and Objectives

Collective Worship at St. Andrew's C of E Primary School aims to:

- offer a range of experiences that enhance the spiritual development and response of the school community
- seek to make a difference to the lives of all members of the school community by engaging, challenging, encouraging and inspiring in a relevant way
- foster a thought-provoking atmosphere that allows for spiritual reflection and response
- learn about and reflect upon Christian Teaching, Biblical material, Christian and other festivals, in a way that relates to the pupils' experience and to living together in a community
- create an atmosphere in which faith in God is recognised and respected
- foster a reverential attitude to God and contribute to learners' understanding of Christian theological concepts and beliefs at an appropriate level
- enable learners to develop an understanding of the person of Jesus Christ and the central position He occupies in the Christian faith.
- set the distinctive values of the school in their Christian context
- give a significant place to the Bible relating this to the school's core values and learners' own lives.

- allow learners to explore and enjoy reflection, praise, prayer, and the rituals of Christianity
- allow participants to respond to a wide variety of stimuli including, for example, praise, silence, songs, art work, technology, guided reflection, drama, music, prayer and their active involvement.
- ensure that worship is appropriate to the age, aptitude and family background of pupils
- provide opportunities to understand and celebrate the seasons of the Church year and Christian festivals including local celebrations.
- understand the value of personal prayer and reflection as part of the individual spiritual journey.
- provide a variety of leaders in sympathy with cultures and beliefs represented in the school community.
- use a variety of settings, timings and environments to enrich worship
- make regular use of local church buildings for worship

Collective Worship is distinctively Christian, but we recognise the importance of times when assembly allows the school community to:

- recognise and celebrate the beliefs and culture of others, particularly those represented in the school community
- celebrate achievements of members of the school that are held to be of worth
- reinforce school expectations, behaviour strategies, school routines
- share school and community information

This will be achieved by:

- engaging the whole school community in purposeful and regular acts of collective worship
- ensuring that the children are an integral part of collective worship
- providing a range of collective worship opportunities at a range of venues
- creating a worship area in each classroom
- ensuring that the whole school is aware of our Christian values and that these thread through all that we do, particularly collective worship

Legal Requirements

The daily act of Collective Worship is in accordance with the Trust Deed of the school and the legal requirement of all Anglican foundation schools. This requires Worship to be consistent with the principles and practices of the Church of England. This also complies with the 1988 Education

Reform Act where there must be a daily act of collective worship for every pupil, in addition to any secular assembly. We also take into account current DFES legislation/advice, where worship is to be:

- Appropriate to the age, aptitude and family backgrounds of pupils.
- Provided in a variety of settings, groupings and timings, and with a variety of leaders.
- If appropriate (i.e. in multi-faith schools), at times in sympathy with the school community in relation to beliefs and cultures represented.

We recognise the right of withdrawal from Worship, as indicated in the school prospectus. Some parents express a wish to withdraw their child however most opt to attend but not to participate in prayers and songs etc. The Law states that pupils are not allowed to be withdrawn from the assembly part of the gathering but only from the worship times.

Timing of Collective Worship

Day/Time	Worship	Leader	Location
Monday 2:45pm	Whole school	HT/DHT/Visitor	Assembly Hall
Tuesday 2:45pm	Class	Class Teacher	Classrooms
Wednesday 2:45pm	Phase Worship Singing Worship	Phase Leaders DK/AM	Dining Hall Assembly Hall
Thursday 2:45pm	Class	Class Teacher	Classrooms
Friday 2:45pm	Celebration	HT/DHT	Assembly Hall

Format of Collective Worship

An alter area is prepared within the school assembly hall, which comprises of a Christian religious artefact, a bible and a candle - the alter will be covered in the appropriate liturgical colour to reflect the time of year. Worship will begin with children entering the hall to a range of reflective music. A child will be invited to light the worship candle. Worship will then begin and may take a variety of forms e.g. stories, bible readings, hymns, prayers, drama, guest speakers, reflection. At the end of worship a child will be invited to extinguish the candle and children will leave the hall accompanied by music.

In classrooms the same ritual will take place, with a small worship area ever present, again reflecting the colours of the liturgical calendar and housing a Christian artefact, bible, candle and artefacts and items from other world religions.

Throughout the year each year group will host an act of collective worship which they will lead and invite peers and parents to join with - this may be in response to recent events in the news or events within the Christian calendar.

Management of Collective Worship

- The Foundation Governors, in conjunction with the Governing Body, Headteacher, staff and school community have responsibility to ensure that the daily act of collective worship is consistent with the principles and practices of the Church of England and the trust deeds of the school.
- The headteacher has responsibility for managing collective worship on a day-to-day basis, ensuring all legal requirements are complied with. This involves the planning of a programme for Collective Worship that ensures continuity, variety and a clear focus on Christian beliefs, teaching and festivals, and the way that these link with the values and life of the school. A range of members from the school community, including local clergy, may contribute to this planning.
- Leaders ensure worship is relevant, creative, cohesive and will enrich the spiritual journey of participants. The themes and values to be explored through worship times each term/year will be decided in advance. Records of plans and content are kept centrally in the staff shared area. It is the responsibility of the worship co-ordinator to ensure that these are kept updated. Pupils are encouraged and enabled to be involved in planning and leading acts of worship and have frequent opportunities to do so.
- Monitoring and evaluating the impact of Collective Worship is an on-going process that involves input from staff, pupils, parents and governors, and takes place every term. Feedback provides insight into how worship influences the life of the community and is used to ensure on-going relevance and improvement. Outcomes of monitoring will be reported back to full Governors' meetings through the curriculum committee.
- The worship co-ordinator also has responsibility for auditing and keeping records of resources and ensuring they are accessible to pupils and staff as appropriate.
- A negotiated budget ensures that the worship programme can be carried out effectively.
- The worship co-ordinator keeps in touch with development in the subject and acts in an advisory capacity to colleagues, ensuring that worship is prioritised on the School Development Plan, to allow for INSET and resource development.
- The Headteacher and worship co-ordinator are aware of the requirements of the section 48 (statutory inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools) inspections with regard to worship, and will ensure that the school is striving to ensure that worship at this

school develops and aspires to best practice as articulated in inspection criteria.