

School Mission Statement

At St Andrew's Church School, we take pride in enabling children to be motivated, resilient, life-long learners, who are confident, have high self-esteem, respect themselves and others and are able to grow spiritually and morally.

We believe that collective worship and Sharing Time are crucial parts of our broader school life. Every day, every class will be involved in some form of *Collective Worship*. These will be based principally on Christian themes and will reflect the vision and values of our school, as well as the traditions and culture of our country. They will almost always include time for reflection which will help the children understand their own values, their own thoughts, and their own behaviours.

Collective Worship in a Church school should enable every child and adult to flourish and to live life in all its fullness. It will help educate for wisdom, knowledge and skills, hope and aspiration, dignity, and respect, and will develop community and an understanding of living well together.

Legal Requirements

There is a daily act of Collective Worship in our school. This worship is in accordance with the practices of the Church of England. In other words, the law on Collective Worship applies, "that it should be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character". Worship in St Andrew's Church School is distinctly Christian and reflects Anglican traditions.

Responsibility of the Governing Body

The governing body has the responsibility for ensuring that the school meets the requirements for worship detailed in the *Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS)* Evaluation Document. It is also tasked with monitoring and evaluating the impact of worship on the school community. This will be done in consultation with the Headteacher.

Policy Statement

In St Andrew's Church School, worship is central to the life of school and is the main platform for exploring the school's vision. It is well planned and of high quality, enabling the whole school

community to be engaged on a journey of discovery, exploring the teachings of Jesus and of the Bible as a whole.

For Christians in church, worship concerns the honouring God and responding to the loving nature of God as revealed through the Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. A school is not a church but is a collection of people who come from a variety of backgrounds for the purpose of education. The family backgrounds of those present may well differ widely and Collective Worship must take account of the varied circumstances of staff and pupils.

At St Andrew's Church School Collective Worship aims to be inspirational and inclusive. It aims to lead people to a threshold where they can witness worship and join in if they wish.

Through Collective Worship pupils will be offered a space and a place for the telling of the Christian story. They will be offered an understanding of worship through being invited to participate in or observe prayer, reading and reflection on the Bible. They will experience (of) the musical and other imaginative riches of Christianity. Opportunities to reflect on the beauty, joy and pain of the world will be given. Pupils will be given time to consider their responsibilities for others. Time will be given for celebration, both for the accomplishments of school members and to mark the seasonal festivals of the Christian calendar. Pupils will be offered time to be able to contemplate and to develop spiritually.

Guiding Principles

Collective Worship in St Andrews's Church School aims to:

- Underpin the Christian ethos of the school and its values.
- Help pupils and adults appreciate the relevance of faith for today's world by, encountering the teachings of Jesus and the Bible and by developing understanding of the Christian belief in the nature of God as Trinity.
- Offer the opportunity, without compulsion, for all pupils and adults to grow spiritually through experiences of prayer, stillness, worship, and reflection. Care will be taken to ensure that the language used by those facilitating worship avoids assuming a presence of faith in all those participating, listening, and watching.

- Enable all pupils and adults to appreciate that Christians worship in different ways, for example using music, silence, story, prayer, and reflection, as well as through the varied liturgical and other traditions of Anglican worship and its festivals.
- Enable pupils as well as adults to develop skills through engaging in the planning, leading and evaluation of Collective Worship.
- Enable pupils and adults to ask big questions about who we are and why we do what we do, motivating pupils and adults into action, into thinking differently, and into reflecting on their and the wider community's behaviour and actions.
- Maintain and strengthen links with St. Swithin's Church and the wider Christian community.

The Timing of Collective Worship

Collective Worship is given a special period of time in the school day. However, it should be remembered that:

- Collective Worship can take place at any time and in any grouping.
- Worship can take place in a variety of settings; for example - In the school hall, in a class, outside, in the local church or church hall.
- Collective Worship should last for around 20 minutes daily.

Timetable for Collective Worship

Whole school Collective Worship takes place daily as an important way of celebrating and integrating our whole school community. The organisation of Collective Worship, including opportunities for worshipping in smaller groups, for example in individual classes or key stages, is reviewed regularly.

Collective worship is as follows:

Monday and Tuesday - Whole school Collective Worship led by a member of the Senior Leadership Team. Story of religious/values-based substance, prayer, and quiet reflection time. These times also celebrate special events and festivals across a range of religions and cultures, with members of the school community being invited to share their experiences and beliefs (e.g. Holi, Eid, Chinese New Year).

Wednesday- Singing Collective Worship, led by teaching staff and supported by St Swithin's staff. Songs, including traditional hymns as well as secular songs. Songs, prayers and quiet reflection time are linked to our termly value or focus festival.

Thursday- Celebration Collective Worship, led by a member of the Senior Management Team, teachers and representatives from St.Swithin's Church and the wider Christian community. Celebration assembly includes a story, prayer, quiet reflection time and worship song. During this Collective Worship, pupils are awarded Golden Value Leaves and pupil achievements from their wider experiences are also celebrated. Parents/ Carers are invited to attend this.

Friday- This can be a combination of the following throughout the year:

Term 1 and Term 2: Pupil led Collective Worship supported by school staff with a focus on a contemporary school theme or termly value. KS2 pupils work in small groups to plan and lead Collective Worship and mentor younger pupils in leading this.

Term 3 and Term 4: Class Sharing assembly. Each class shares their learning with the school community, family and friends.

Term 5 and Term 6: Pupil led Collective Worship supported by school staff with a focus on a contemporary school theme or termly value. Pupils are invited to share a short presentation about an environmental or humanitarian cause they are passionate about with the school. This may be led by one of the Pupil Leadership teams, such as the School Council or Green Team. These gatherings promote Courageous Advocacy and Pupil Voice.

Friday Collective Worship also includes a termly musical performance and each week we celebrate pupil's successes through Learning Leaves. Whole school awards are presented such as high attendance and House Points.

Planning and Evaluation of Collective Worship

- Collective worship is based around our school's Christian ethos and the values of Love, Hope, Courage, Joy, Peace and Creativity. We will focus on one of these values each term.
- Each theme will be developed across the term and will run as a central strand through almost all

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Collective Worship opportunities.

- This pattern is flexible and on occasion (it is recognised that) we may feel that we need to respond to local or national events. Collective Worship is planned and resourced by the Senior Management Team and RE lead.

Each term will also include a 'focus festival' based largely on the key markers of the Church year. A related service in St Swithin's Church will be the highlight of this focus, but some in-school assemblies will also follow the festival theme.

Focus festival: Organisation

Term 1: Harvest

Term 2: Advent

Term 3: Epiphany

Term 4: Easter

Term 5: Pentecost

Term 6: Leavers' Service

•We encourage pupils to voice their views on Collective Worship and to be a part of the evaluation process. KS2 Pupils have regular opportunities to plan, lead and evaluate Collective Worship. These views are documented in a whole school Collective Worship Book, which also includes feedback from parents/carers.

•Worship can also be evaluated by those leading the worship, other staff, the pupils for whom the worship is intended or by members of the governing body. Feedback from any of these groups will help to improve the quality of worship offered to the pupils.

Monitoring of Collective Worship

The monitoring of the planning and provision of worship is carried out on a regular basis. The governors have a key role in this process to ensure that the legal requirements are met and that the worship offered to the pupils is of the highest quality.

The right of withdrawal

In St Andrew's Church School, there are significant numbers of children whose families are members of another faith, or who hold a non- religious world view. Part of the distinctively Christian nature of Church of England schools is that they should be hospitable and inclusive to all members of the community they serve. As Collective Worship occupies such a central place in the life of the Church school, this should be made clear on induction. It is hoped that parents will make a specific choice of the school, aware that its distinctive ethos will determine a Christian tradition for Collective Worship.

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The 1944 and 1988 Education Acts state that parents have the right to withdraw children from Collective Worship and suitable arrangements should be made to accommodate these children.

On occasions, a parent may make a request for their child to be withdrawn from Collective Worship. There is an expectation that parents wishing to request a withdrawal will meet with the Headteacher to discuss their concerns and requirements. It may be helpful to establish:

- Those elements of worship to which the parent would object to the child taking part
- The practical implications of withdrawal
- Whether the parent will require any advanced notice of specific acts of worship, and if so, how much notice

Where parents have withdrawn their children from Collective Worship and request religious worship according to their particular faith or denomination, the Governors and Headteacher will seek to respond positively to such requests providing:

- Such arrangements can be made at no additional cost to the school
- That the alternative provision would be consistent with the overall purposes of the school curriculum as set out in the Education Acts

If the Parent asks that a pupil should be wholly or partly excused from attending (any) religious worship at the school, then the school must comply.

(This means that a parent may, for example, request that their child does not take part in a carol service (when otherwise) though the child takes part in daily Collective Worship.)

Disseminating the policy

We ensure that this policy is known to all staff and governors, parents and carers and, as appropriate, to all pupils. This policy is available on our school website.

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Associated Policies:

RE

PSHE

Behaviour for Learning

Child Protection

SEND/Inclusion

Equal Opportunities and Racial Equality

Other Useful Documents: (can be found on the diocesan website)

- Guidance for visitors leading Collective Worship, including a code of conduct.
- Example Visitors Leaflet about Collective Worship
- Collective Worship Planning Proformas
- Evaluation and Monitoring – Ideas and Systems
- Suggested Resources for Collective Worship
- Spirituality – What is it?

Monitoring and Review

The governing body monitors this policy on a regular basis and reviews the policy every 2 Years.

Policy adoption and reviews		Signed Headteacher	Signed Chair of Governors
Date Policy adopted	July 2021	J. Rochford-Smith	L. Leach
Date reviewed	July 2023	J. Rochford-Smith	L. Leach
Date for review	July 2025		

