



St. Andrew's C of E Primary School

## **Collective Worship Policy**

July 2024

To be agreed by Governors – Autumn 2024

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Chair of Governors**

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**To be reviewed Autumn 2026**

## **Introduction:**

This policy is enacted within the context and spirit of the school's Vision Statement and Values that weave through the life of the school.

# “Let Your Light Shine”

## Matthew 5:16

Believe \* Achieve \* Shine

### Vision Statement

We create a nurturing, yet ambitious family community underpinned by strong Christian values to support and develop each unique child.

Through a rich creative curriculum, children embark upon an inspiring journey of learning to let their light shine.

At St. Andrew's Primary School, we enable everyone to flourish and “let their light shine” through a whole school ethos built upon our Christian, British and Intrinsic values.

**Friendship, Kindness, Dedication, Forgiveness, Honesty, Respect**

**Liberty, Rule of Law, Democracy, Respect, Tolerance**

**Friendship, Responsibility, Dedication, Respect, Eco, Community**

We make sure we:

- Work in partnership with parents, carers, pupils, governors, our local community and our trust.
- Deliver a rounded, rigorous and knowledge rich curriculum
- Strive for high academic standards and are ambitious for all our pupils to achieve personal excellence
- Recognise and celebrate success in all its forms; letting our pupils shine
- We celebrate and nurture each unique child

**St. Andrew's C of E Primary School** aims to ensure that children and staff share in Christian Worship. This is reflected in and expressed through the daily life and the ethos of the school and encompasses all that we are. Our worship is derived from Christian tradition and seeks to express our beliefs and values which are reflected in the life of the school. Daily Collective Worship is intended to expand spiritual awareness both within and outside of school. Collective Worship, within a Christian context, plays an extremely important part in the life of our school. It provides an oasis in the school day when children meet together with members of staff in a calm and peaceful atmosphere where all present are given the opportunity to reflect and participate. It is regarded as 'quality' time and represents something special or separate from ordinary school routine.

"Praise, prayer, silence, a sense of community, common ideal, the power of the spoken word, ritual, and an awareness of important experiences all contribute to worship."

### **Definitions:**

**Worship:** can be defined as paying homage to (revering) that which is of worth ("Worth-ship.") Religious Worship is the acknowledgement of the worth of a supreme being and in a Christian context is the acknowledgement of the worth of God. Worth can also be found in other people, values and attitudes.

**School Assembly:** is a gathering of the school community; it is often used to celebrate and focus on the life and values of the community itself.

**Corporate Worship:** is a gathering of a body ('corpus') of believers and presupposes a particular religious commitment.

*NB: We note that Collective Worship and Assembly are not one and the same thing. They are, in essence, different from each other, but in practice they often overlap.*

### **Rationale – Legal:**

- In Anglican schools, worship is to be consistent with the principles and practices of the Church of England and will therefore be wholly Christian in character.
- The 1988 Education Reform Act states that Collective Worship should be part of a broad and balanced curriculum which promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils and society.
- All maintained schools – including church schools – must provide a daily act of Collective Worship for all registered pupils.

## **Rationale – Religious/Educational:**

Collective Worship gives children the opportunity:

- To enter into experiences which lie at the heart of religion.
- To learn about religious worship and provide a framework for later understanding.
- To foster a reverential attitude to a Divine, Transcendent God.
- To encourage pupils to consider fundamental questions about the purpose of being and moral and ethical stances.
- To participate in religious worship.
- To learn and celebrate values we hold to be important.
- To be together and experience the security of belonging to a community with an identity of its own.
- To discover interesting and thought provoking knowledge.
- To demonstrate their abilities in literature, art, music and drama.
- To be developed spiritually, morally, socially and culturally.

## **Aims and Principles:**

*“Collective Worship in schools should aim to provide the opportunity for pupils to worship God, to consider spiritual and moral issues and to explore their own beliefs; to encourage participation and response, whether through active involvement in the presentation of worship or through listening to and joining in the worship offered; and to develop community spirit, promote a common ethos and shared values and reinforce positive attitudes.” (DfE – Circular 1/94)*

The following principles guide our approach to Collective Worship at St. Andrew's C of E Primary School:

- **Collective Worship** should have a sense of occasion that uses celebration, silence, stilling, reflection, contemplation, meditation, prayer, song, symbols and imagery as vehicles for worship and spiritual growth
- **Collective Worship** uses a vocabulary of worship that encourages the whole school community to attend, participate and lead worship;
- **Collective Worship** should be a means of expressing the vision and values of the school.
- **Collective Worship** should be educational and should contribute to the Religious Education of all pupils.
- **Collective Worship** develops a sense of community within the school, the locality, (e.g. local church) and foster the sense of being part of a wider community through the celebration of achievements, festivals and special occasions

- **Collective Worship** should take into account that the school includes children from different religious and non-religious backgrounds.
- There will be varying levels of response amongst the children during **Collective Worship** and each will be acceptable and encouraged.
- During **Collective Worship** pupils will be encouraged to learn from one another, they will be encouraged to foster a concern for the needs of others as they begin to feel for themselves something of what it means to worship

### **Objectives:**

The objectives of Collective Worship are to:

- Affirm the Christian faith and the Christian status of Jesus as Son of God.
- Introduce pupils to the practice of religious worship through music, art, story, poetry, movement, meditation and prayer.
- Create a warm, caring and respectful atmosphere in assemblies which will be conducive to worship. This will include the manner of entry and exit.
- Encourage, in children, a thoughtful and reflective attitude.
- Help pupils experience a sense of awe, wonder, reverence and inner stillness.
- Enable pupils to use silence for reflection and contemplation.
- Raise pupil's curiosity about the ultimate mysteries of life.
- Enable pupils to learn about and consider in depth Christian teaching, Christian festivals and Biblical material.
- Help pupils appreciate that we are 'stewards' of God's world.
- Enable pupils to reflect upon their own beliefs in relation to those of others.
- Enhance pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.
- Guide children towards the spiritual and religious options open to them.

### **Management of Collective Worship:**

The Governing Body is responsible for:

- Ensuring that the Foundation of the school is expressed and that the Collective Worship policy is firmly based upon the intentions set down in the Trust Deed.
- Ensuring that the Collective Worship Policy is put into practice and monitored by the appropriate Governor.
- Engaging an appropriate inspector to carry out the Section 23 Inspection of a church school alongside the OFSTED Inspection.

### The Role of the Collective Worship Coordinator:

- assisting the governors and Head Teacher to carry out their legal responsibilities with regard to Collective Worship
- reporting to the Head Teacher and governors on matters of review and development
- communicating with members of the school community regarding the significance and content of collective acts of worship
- developing and maintaining effective procedures for planning, recording, monitoring, evaluating and reviewing collective acts of worship
- being responsive to the needs and views of members of the school community

### Organisation:

Daily acts of Collective Worship take place in the school hall or in classrooms and follow a planned theme. The structure of assemblies includes some or all of the following: music, a song of praise, a story or talk, a reading from the Bible, a period of reflection, a prayer, the Lord's Prayer, the school prayer and a reminder each day of the theme for the week.

### Weekly Structure:

Monday – Theme (Simply Collective Worship)

Tuesday – Class Collective Worship: Intrinsic Value

Wednesday – Theme (Simply Collective Worship)

Thursday – Theme (Simply Collective Worship)

Friday – Celebration Assembly: Christian Value

These are led by staff members, pioneer minister and visitors. They follow our agreed structure:

- **Gathering**- we are invited to prepare our hearts and minds to meet with God. We gather together for this special time as a community. Music will be played as we enter.
- Worship team to welcome by setting the worship table: We open the bible and place it on the table as we think about **God the Father**, We take out the cross and place it on the table as we think about **God's son Jesus**, We take out the candle and light it as we think about **God the holy spirit**. These three things are **The Trinity**.
- Leader starts with whole school response **The lord be with you** (lead) **and also with you** (children).
- **Hymn/Song**

- **Engaging** – We engage with the big things and the little things in life We encounter Jesus and the stories of the Bible. We listen to God's message and consider how it might apply to our lives.
- **Reflection and Respond-** We respond to what we have heard and seen through prayer, silence, stillness and reflection. We are given the invitation to worship God in different way.
- **Prayer**
- **Sending** - We are sent out to love and serve one another and to make a difference in the world We are all sent out with God's blessing
- **Closing Prayer**
- **Go in peace to love and serve the lord (lead) in the name of Christ**  
(children) **Amen** (All)
- **Music** to leave

There are always staff members in attendance at daily worship. Our pioneer minister leads Collective Worship on alternate Wednesdays in school and when we hold services in St. Andrew's Church. Visitors and outside speakers are invited to lead our worship too.

**The Worship Team** consists of children from Year 4 who volunteer for this role. Team. In addition to their participation during Collective Worship, they meet once per half term with the Collective Worship staff lead to plan and deliver a session of worship following the whole school themes.

### **Elements of Worship:**

"There are times when worship will be quiet, contemplative and serene and others when laughter, music and dance will be the appropriate form of expression."

**Atmosphere** is all-important in creating the right foundation for Collective Worship. Quiet, orderly behaviour and respectful attitudes on entering, leaving and throughout the assembly are expected. Staff members enhance the atmosphere by their presence and participation. Our Assembly Table with a cross, a bible and a candle help to set the scene.

**Music** is played at the beginning and end of the assembly. One piece is selected each week appropriate to the theme.

**Stories** are carefully chosen to link with the focus school value and to fulfill the objectives of Collective Worship. Personal anecdotes from pupils, teachers and visitors are effective in expressing that which is important in our own lives. Emphasis is placed upon helping children to understand themselves better, to develop empathy and to reflect on and address moral issues.

**Hymns and Songs** are chosen from a variety of traditional and modern hymns and choruses and link to our weekly themes. Singing the same hymn every day for a week provides the opportunity for pupils to learn it by heart and to help to immerse them into the worship session and gain a better understanding of the theme.

**Prayer and reflection** are the most personal part of an act of worship. Collective Worship in school should provide opportunities for children to be taken to the threshold of prayer and to cross it, if they wish, in a way that respects the integrity of all present. Prayers are often used from our Prayer Tree which children have written themselves. Participation in prayer can never be imposed but we stress the need for stillness, reflection and respect for others. The Lord's Prayer is said regularly. A large candle is lit and provides a focus for pupils' thoughts. Reflection and thinking time are given some direction by the leader to concentrate pupils' responses.

**Scripture** is frequently used, as an inspiration, from the Bible and, where appropriate, from sacred books and writings of other world faiths.

**Presentation** sets the tone within the act of worship. In keeping with the reverent atmosphere, use is also made of visual aids, artefacts, drama, demonstration and video. At St. Andrew's we use an agreed format to ensure consistency and to signal the act of worship.

### **Content:**

Planning for Collective Worship is the responsibility of the coordinator for Collective Worship who works in collaboration with the Head of School. We use our Vision and Values as a starting point to create our termly planner and use a variety of resources including Simply Collective Worship and those suggested by the Leicestershire Diocese as a starting point. Suggestions and requests from staff are welcomed, whilst input and guidance from the incumbent on the selection of themes is valued. The selection of entrance music, songs and hymns are carefully chosen to provide rich learning and singing opportunities for all – this links with the expectations of our Music Curriculum Framework. Themes might have a specific religious base such as 'miracles of Jesus'; they may wish to reflect a theme common to all religions such as 'creation' or be concerned with common values held by religious and non-religious people alike such as 'humility' or 'sacrifice.' Links with R.E. and the broader curriculum are incorporated wherever possible. Common themes link R.E. and Collective Worship. There is often an overlap between Collective Worship and Personal, Social and Health Education.



### **Records and Assessment:**

Themes for Collective Worship are noted on the Collective Worship Termly Planners, a copy of which is displayed in the staffroom and stored in our school assembly folder on Teams. The assessment of Collective Worship is carried out by the Head of School, Coordinator and Governors through:

- Checking that practice matches aims and objectives
- The observation of children's attentiveness and level of interest
- Written and verbal classroom feedback from pupils
- Comments from parents, visitors and governors
- The monitoring of the influence of Collective Worship upon pupils' attitude and behaviour throughout their school day
- Self-evaluation/comment by the teacher leading worship

Staff meetings are used for discussion and the update of information as and when necessary. Formal evaluation takes place with the whole staff.

### **Equal Opportunities:**

All pupils have equal opportunity to take part in Collective Worship and to benefit from the experience. The school informs parents of their right to withdraw pupils from Collective Worship. Such pupils are fully supervised in another part of the school.

### **Community Cohesion:**

In R.E. and Collective Worship, stories are shared and festivals learned about in accordance with the major faiths represented in the UK. An awareness of British Values, such as tolerance, individual liberty and respect for and understanding of other religions is actively promoted.

### **Special Assemblies and Visitors:**

Within a Christian context, special services are held for Harvest, Christmas, Easter and the end of the school year. Parents, Governors and visitors are especially welcome to attend and the event is often held at St. Andrew's Church. Occasionally outside speakers, such as representatives from charitable organisations, will lead assemblies.

### **Classroom Reflection Areas:**

These are a place to engage children in reflection of worship in everyday life and to support them in making connections with the world. Over the year this area will provide a link to our Christian Values. The areas should have a cross and a candle as the focal point, as well as a mirror for reflection, prayers and the Bible. The half termly value is featured and this includes the associated bible quote. Our Vision and Values statement is displayed in all classrooms.