St. Andrew's CE Primary School

Collective Worship Policy

Approved by:	Teaching & Learning Committee
Last reviewed on:	January 2023
Next review due by:	January 2025

Introduction

The Education Reform Act (ERA) requires all pupils registered in maintained schools to attend a daily act of collective worship (ERA 6 (1). In classes where children are not predominantly of statutory school age, children will be gradually integrated into whole school collective worship during their first term. They will have daily opportunities for reflection within their own classes/year group.

Collective worship in St Andrew's Church of England Aided School will reflect Anglican beliefs, practices and values in accordance with the practice observed in the school since its foundation. The material used will be drawn predominantly from Christian sources, but reference will be made to the beliefs and practices of other faith communities so that the children can grow in tolerance and understanding of these faiths and cultures.

Parents retain the right to withdraw their children from collective worship, although it is assumed that, as a Church School, parents have understood and accepted the importance of their children's involvement in this aspect of school life.

Our Worship Vision

To create opportunities to worship in diverse ways, enabling children, adults and families to encounter God and grow in faith.

To foster a sense of fellowship and connectedness within the school community and beyond through exploring the school's Christian values, so that we might live well together.

The Aims and Purpose of Collective Worship in St Andrew's C of E Primary School

To create rich and diverse opportunities for worship so that children, adults and families might build a relationship with God and grow in faith.

To create opportunities for 'faith talk' by engaging in conversations about God.

To create moments for pupils and adults to explore and reflect upon the schools' vision and Christian values.

To foster a sense of fellowship and connectedness within the school community and beyond.

To welcome difference and embrace diversity as an aspect of 'life in all its fullness'; to learn to live well together.

To create opportunities for ongoing spiritual awareness and growth in diverse ways, for example, through music, stillness, song, poetry, prayer, dialogue and contemplation.

To introduce children to the foundational aspects of Christian worship, for example, The Lord's Prayer, hymns and Christian services and celebrations.

To affirm our worth through celebrating achievements whilst also graciously acknowledging and accepting disappointment as a necessary and important aspect of our journey in faith.

To establish 'connected communities' through the development of school/church/home links, facilitating collaboration to enrich and diversify worship.

Worship is always invitational and not compulsory.

Planning and Co-ordination

The overview for Collective Worship is planned by Senior Leadership in liaison with The Reverend Dan Henderson. Firm links are made between the church and the school, and key dates in the Christian calendar, including some Saints Days, are included in the overview. Our school values of courage, curiosity, joy, love and respect inform worship, alongside materials based on the 'Values for Life' scheme. A new value is introduced each half-term.

Organisation

Whole school collective worship will usually take place on five days of the week.

Monday Whole School at 9.05am

Tuesday class worship to focus on reflection at 10.30am for infants for 15 minutes and 10.10am for 15 minutes for juniors.

Wednesday Service Church Worship at am 10.10 juniors; 9.50am for infants

Thursday Singing at 10.10am for juniors and 9.50am for infants

Friday Infant assembly celebrating good work at 10.30am; Junior assembly celebrating good work at 10.10am or assembly based on current affairs.

Some worship starts with the lighting of the candle and an introduction linked to the Christian value for that half-term. They usually include at least one Christian song and all assemblies are closed with a prayer. On occasions, when whole school worship is not possible, the daily act of worship will be led by the class teacher in their own class. Each classroom has a 'Reflection Area' and display.

Monday worship is usually led by the Headteacher, who introduces the whole school value for the half term and makes links to life in school and the wider community. Further links to British Values and the school values are also made explicit during these assemblies. Children may also sometimes support or lead collective worship, as well as the Faith Council, the Diversity Council or School Council.

Tuesday worship is led by teachers in classrooms. This worship is linked to the current value, focusing also on pupil voice and feedback from school council members. Children complete tasks, and engage in discussion, prayer and reflection based on the value being explored.

Wednesday services are led by Father Dan Henderson. Off the Fence and/or Brighton and Hove City Mission contribute and lead some assemblies such as Harvest and Easter. Children are involved in taking part as appropriate. Children will be encouraged to read prayers, either from a selection of printed prayers or one written by themselves.

Thursday's singing worship is usually organised by the music co-ordinator. A mixture of traditional hymns and songs linked to the term's value are sung. A piano is used when a pianist is available, otherwise backing tracks are used.

Friday Celebration is led by the Senior Leadership Team or class teachers and children are awarded certificates for their achievements in school.

Worship time is usually a maximum of 20 minutes unless it is a special celebration.

Collective Worship

We aim to use a variety of secular and Bible stories to raise issues and encourage the children to reflect on spiritual and moral insights linked with the weekly value. Children will be invited to contribute to the session by sharing their thoughts on an incident or event. Expression and reflection through singing and poetry will be a consistent part of our collective worship.

Each class has a reflection area, and reflection is encouraged in numerous and diverse ways, for example, through the use of a 'thinking' candle and/or prayer, song, poetry, literature and faith talk. These moments for reflection may be during whole school collective worship, class worship, celebration assembly, or form an aspect of class discussion during RE lessons or circle time. Children will also have opportunities to reflect on the good things that have happened during their day.

Budgetary and Resources

In conjunction with resources for RE it is planned to expand the story selection relevant to RE themes. Artefacts which have been purchased prove to be invaluable when introducing the practices of other faith communities. These are kept in the resource area.