

Collective Worship Policy

St Aidan's CE Academy



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Collective Worship Policy

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Rationale

Our Collective Worship Policy strengthens and supports the Christian identity of our school, reaffirms our vision of **Love, Laugh, Learn, Live** and associated values of **Hope, Compassion** and **Respect** and celebrates the central role that each child has to play in their community. Our worship reflects the variety of traditions found in the Church of England and will recognise and follow the Christian liturgical year. The daily Christian act of worship is central to our ethos and is supported by all staff and governors. It makes an important contribution to the overall spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of the whole school community.

Therefore, Collective Worship at St Aidan's CE Academy is planned to

- to be inspirational and inclusive. It should engage all learners, and they should be able to talk about the impact it makes on their relationships and on life in the school.
- will regularly include Biblical material and Christian teaching and this should explore and relate to the school's core Christian values.
- will have a strong focus on God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit enabling all learners to embark on an understanding of the Trinity.
- will help all learners to understand Anglican and other Christian traditions found in the UK and worldwide.
- will challenge all learners of all backgrounds to understand and embark on their own spiritual journey. They should understand the value of prayer, reflection stillness.
- will contribute significantly to pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development; by providing all learners with "something more than the obvious, something to wonder at, something to respond to"
- will be an opportunity to celebrate and give thanks for achievements within the school, local and international community and occasions of significance, including festivals. Collective Worship should be invitational and an experience that does not offend the integrity of the non-religious or those of different faiths.

Legal Requirements

The law requires the Headteacher and Governing Body of every school to provide a daily act of Collective Worship which is in line with the schools Trust Deed and foundation.

Withdrawal from Collective Worship

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from acts of worship, and this is stated in the school prospectus and handbook.

Parents need to make contact with the Headteacher. Guidance for new parents on non-participation in acts of Collective Worship is given in the school prospectus.

Inclusion and Equal Opportunities

Please refer to the school inclusion and equal opportunities policy.

Planning Collective Worship

Specific time is set aside for this activity, and we recognise the importance of marking out the act of Collective Worship from other assembly activities. We attempt to mark out this special time by lighting three candles to represent the trinity and asking children to reflect quietly.

Each person leading worship is expected to plan his or her act of worship with the same degree of thoroughness as any other aspect of their teaching. We encourage a 4-stage structure of planning including 'gathering', 'engaging', 'responding' and 'sending'. There should also be space for evaluation.

A worship-planning group meets weekly and is led by the Church Distinctiveness Co-Ordinator. These meetings are an opportunity to review and evaluate the last terms Acts of Collective Worship and to plan themes for the next term. The views of pupils about collective worship are sought through the Collective Worship Club/Values committee.

Pupils are encouraged to be involved in the planning, leading and monitoring of Collective Worship, through our 'worship ideas' box.

Ruth Hobson, one of the school governors, has a role monitoring Collective Worship through membership of the values committee at the school. She also supports the worship group on a weekly basis.

There are a number of resources available to form the basis of Collective Worship planning. This may include resources such as 'LYFTA time', 'Simply Collective Worship', 'I sing pop' 'Out of the Box Worship' or 'Roots and Fruits' both available on www.imaginor.co.uk

The programme of acts of Collective Worship is coordinated by the Headteacher and Helen Ford and supported by Ruth Hobson and Trevor Langley.

Our Pattern of Collective Worship

Whole School Worship is held three times a week. These are taken by either the Headteacher, the Collective Worship group, class, church or a member of SLT. Worship acolytes are responsible for helping to share and teach the vision and values of the school to others. They welcome and send out at each worship.

Class worship is held twice a week and these are taken by the class teacher.

Visitors to school have include ...

Our Incumbent, Hand to Mouth, Philip Kaye, The Methodist Church visitors as well as St Aidan's church representatives.

Acts of worship generally follow themes that are linked to the school's vision and values and include the pattern of the church's year.

Visitors

Visitors should understand the educational aims of Collective Worship at the school and the need to avoid any proselytising. Attempts to persuade pupils to adopt a particular religious or non-religious belief are not appropriate. In general, the Headteacher is consulted before a visiting speaker is confirmed. Visitors should not speak about raising money for any particular cause(s) without the prior permission of the Headteacher.

Staff and Community Involvement in Collective Worship

Certain named individuals are involved on a regular basis with the worship programme. Other staff and pupils are given the opportunity of being involved in this programme every term through an ideas box.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Monitoring and evaluation of collective acts of worship is undertaken by pupils, staff, and governors on a termly basis.

All who deliver worship will be observed on a termly basis. This process supports the school's self-evaluation, is a specific responsibility of the foundation governors and is reported to the whole governing body.

Pupils are also involved in evaluating collective worship through feedback in weekly class worship, questionnaires and pupil conferences. The Collective Worship Club have an important part to play in the evaluation of collective worship in school.

All leaders of collective worship are asked to evaluate continuously, reflect after every worship, to develop and improve their practice.

Our school regularly evaluates our acts of collective worship and the impact it has on the school and its wider community. This involves monitoring by school leaders, staff, pupils and governors in order to grow and develop. We also welcome the contributions of parents and pupils through questionnaires, which are reviewed and considered on a regular basis. These are shared with our Values committee, during full governing body meetings and play an integral part in developing the spiritual growth of the school.

Worship is independently inspected by law under Section 48 of the Education Act 2005 in consultation with the Diocese of Leeds (SIAMS).