



*At St Andrew's, children will be taught to become reflective about beliefs and values, and use their imagination and creativity to develop curiosity in their learning. They will be helped to develop and apply an understanding of right and wrong both in and out of school and be encouraged to take part in activities to develop their social skills. Children will develop an awareness of and respect for diversity in relation to gender, race, religion and disability. All pupils will have the same access to all areas of the curriculum regardless of their gender, race or cultural background.*

## **Collective Worship Policy**

### **Rationale**

Worship is in accordance with the school's Trust Deed. The school meets the legal requirements (1988 Education Reform Act) for all pupils to take part in a daily act of collective worship, unless their parents request to the governing board that they are withdrawn. We are linked with the Diocese of Leeds.

St Andrew's Church of England (Voluntary Aided) Infant School has worship as a central focus for its ethos and as such, worship is an important part of the school day. It provides a collective opportunity for all children, staff and visitors to worship or to approach the threshold of worship in a way that makes sense to them, without assuming shared beliefs. St Andrew's CE (VA) Infant School is dedicated to creating a happy, stimulating learning environment supported by the Christian values of love, respect, patience, honesty, respect, fairness, forgiveness and self-worth, these values underpin our worship themes and make a major contribution to our children's spiritual development.

### **Aims**

Worship at St Andrew's Church of England Infant School aims to provide opportunities which:

- create a calm and quiet atmosphere so those who wish to worship may do so by experiencing stillness and quietness
- create an environment where children can develop a relationship with God as we know Him in Jesus Christ
- enable the participants to offer praise and thanksgiving to God;
- reflect upon and affirm Christian beliefs, values and principles within the context of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit
- enable pupils to begin to understand more about the Christian faith
- foster a sense of fellowship by bringing children, staff, parents and visitors together
- encourage the children to develop a sense of self-worth and the worth of others
- introduce children to various approaches to Christian worship
- encourage the sharing of common concerns and responsibilities and the development of an awareness that life involves choices and demands
- encourage participation in a range of activities which enable pupils to develop and think spiritually in a variety of different ways through the use of story, questioning, prayer, silence, music, dance, drama, art, poetry, prose and the liturgy
- encourage a variety of responses appropriate to the individual e.g. amazement, celebration, wonder, sadness, delight, excitement, sharing, awe, thankfulness, anger, peace, challenge, togetherness, being sorry and forgiveness
- encourage silent reflection
- encourage links with St Martin's Parish Church
- encourage children to be aware of and respectful of other faiths
- contribute to the spiritual, social, moral and cultural development of each child.

### **Organisation**

It is important that children realise they are participating in an act of collective worship. Children should arrive quietly to worship and be respectful understanding that it is a special time in the life of the school, a time to be in the presence of God.

In all acts of worship there will be a point of focus or a symbol to remind us that God is with us, candles, a cross and a bible will be on the focal point. Candles are an appropriate reminder that Jesus is the Light of the World.

We aim to provide a variety of worship experiences for our children. Our current organisation is as follows:

Monday	Whole School Worship led by the Headteacher, Head of School or Deputy Headteacher.
Tuesday	Sing and Celebrate Whole School hymn practice, with prayer/reflection time, led by the music teacher and two other staff members on a rota basis.
Wednesday	Whole School Worship led by a member of the local clergy of St Martin's Parish Church (fortnightly), Headteacher, Head of School or another staff member.
Thursday	Class worship in each classroom based on the weekly theme with chance to reflect and ask questions.
Friday	Whole School Family Worship led by a class, John Froud, , Headteacher, Head of School or Deputy Headteacher on a rota basis. Parents and carers are invited to join us for worship. The worship ends with certificates for individual children for kindness and for good work.

Worship will last between 15-30 minutes each day. When whole school Collective Worship is not possible, worship will be led by individual class teachers in their classrooms. All staff attend worship on Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays unless exceptional circumstances prevent this. On Tuesdays there is a rota for Sing and Celebrate.

In term one, Foundation Stage will have worship in their classroom each day apart from on Tuesdays, Fridays and on Special Occasions. In term two, Foundation Stage children will attend worship each Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday. In term three, children will attend worship every day.

### **Content and Planning**

- Worship is planned by the Headteacher and reflects upon the values of the school. It is child friendly with a simple I can...I know...I understand theme so that it is meaningful to the children. We have a Christian Value linked to our half termly plan. The planning provides an appropriate, varied programme of themes and content which takes account of the age of the children. Monday's worship always has a link to the bible which is read by another staff member. This is used to reflect upon throughout the week.
- A timetable of the year is displayed in the staffroom. The framework allows for a structured approach, without being over-prescriptive and does not stifle the creativity and flexibility of those leading worship.
- In the hall, the focal point always displays the theme, has the liturgical colour, a cross, a candle and the bible displayed with any other objects or photographs relevant for the theme.
- Prayer plays a fundamental role in school worship and encourages the children to build a relationship with God. It includes reflection, response and communication and may be said or sung. Prayers are selected to accompany themes and the Lords prayer is used regularly and said every Monday in worship. Children are invited to actively join in with prayer and to compose their own prayers. Prayers are also said at lunchtime and at the end of the school day.
- Hymns and songs also play a significant part in worship and where possible are linked to themes. Hymns are chosen that are suitable for the age and development of the pupils using the ipad and the piano.
- Eucharist is held in school or St Martin's Church once a term and the bible reading is usually the reading for the day.
- Worship will generally reflect Christian beliefs and practices although will reflect other cultures and religions on significant special days.
- Visitors are invited into worship to share their experiences and knowledge – their role is to educate, not to evangelise. St Martin's Parish Church is our most valuable and frequently used resource, with the whole school attending and contributing to Harvest, Christmas, Easter, Eucharist, and our Leavers' Service. Other visitors planned for include John Froud and Hand-to-Mouth Ministries.
- A file is kept by the Headteacher recording details of each act of worship. Any evaluations are recorded here.

### **Consultation and Review**

The policy will be reviewed every two years by the Headteacher in consultation with a named governor.

**Policy written:** January 2014, reviewed February 2016, updated September 2017.