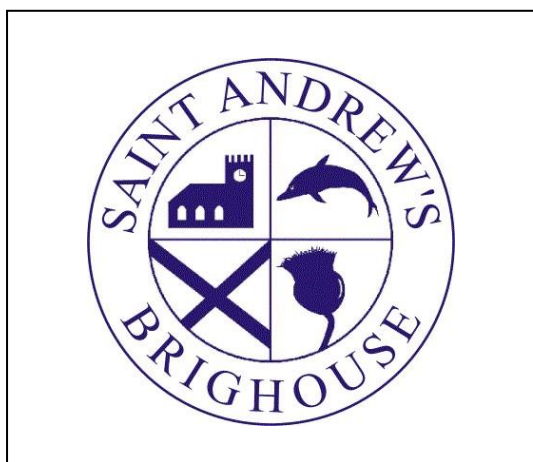


St. Andrew's CE (VA) Infant School and St. Andrew's CE (VA) Junior School

Collective Worship Policy



Title	Collective Worship
Version	1.2
Date	May 2024
Author	Diocese of Leeds and adapted by A. Jocelyn & J. Swallow
Approved by headteacher	July 2024
Approved by governing body	July 2024
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Modification history

Version	Date	Description	Revision author
1.1	July 2022	Additions to collective worship guidance document	N Shaw
1.2	May 2024	Leader's names changed to reflect the new management structure	L Clarke

Collective Worship Policy

Introduction

Our collective worship policy strengthens and supports the Christian identity of our school. We regularly refer to the Collective Worship Guidance document from The Church of England. This means that we ensure our worship is inclusive, invitational and inspiring for all. This policy also reaffirms our vision:



Our School Vision



Promoting excellence within a caring, Christian community

- Confident – We embrace challenge and persevere
- Aspire – We aim high
- Respectful – We are friends and cherish God's world
- Inclusive – We welcome everyone and are all of equal worth
- Nurturing – We look after each other so we can all flourish
- Generous – We give to each other and our community



"Love each other as I have loved you."
John 15:12

Collective Worship 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.

What is Collective Worship?

Legislation requires schools, including Voluntary Aided and Voluntary Controlled schools, to conduct daily acts of Collective Worship. However, the legislation does not define what is meant by the term 'Collective Worship'.

*"... Worship in schools will necessarily be of a different character from worship amongst a group with beliefs in common. The legislation reflects this difference in referring to 'collective worship' rather than 'corporate worship'.
(DfE Circular 1/94 para 57)*

Corporate worship assumes a shared set of beliefs and values, i.e. a worshipping congregation meeting on a Sunday, where the worship is confessional and evangelistic (to spread the Christian gospel by public preaching or personal witness).

Collective worship, in recognising the collectivity of all participants, can make no such assumption that all have the same beliefs and values. Collective Worship should be:

“Appropriate to the family backgrounds of the pupils and their ages and aptitudes.” (DfE Circular 1/94 p.22)

Collective Worship gives pupils and school staff the opportunity to:

- Engage in an act of community
- Express praise and thanksgiving to God
- Be still and reflect
- Explore the big questions of life and respond to national events
- Foster respect and deepen spiritual awareness
- Reflect on the character of God and on the teachings of Christ through Biblical texts
- Affirm Christian values and attitudes
- Share each other's joys and challenges
- Celebrate special times in the Christian calendar

In line with the requirements of the requirements of the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) schedule, we aim to ensure that collective worship

- a) Offers the opportunity, without compulsion, to all pupils and adults to grow spiritually through experiences of prayer, stillness, worship and reflection.
- b) Enables all pupils and adults to appreciate that Christians worship in different ways, for example using music, silence, story, prayer, reflection, the varied liturgical and other traditions of Anglican/Methodist worship, festivals and, where appropriate, the Eucharist.
- c) Helps pupils and adults to appreciate the relevance of faith in today's world, to encounter the teachings of Jesus and the Bible and to develop their understanding of the Christian belief in the Trinitarian nature of God and its language.
- d) Enables pupils as well as adults to engage in the planning, leading and evaluation of collective worship in ways that lead to improving practice. Leaders of worship, including clergy, have access to regular training.
- e) Encourages local church community partnerships to support the school effectively in developing its provision for collective worship.

The Anglican Christian Tradition

The following are shared as Christian elements of collective worship:

- Exploring the Christian understanding of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit
- Using the Bible for inspiration, stories and guidance
- Observing the cycle of the Church's Year – Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, Pentecost and Saints Days amongst ordinary days
- Learning and saying prayers from a number of sources, in particular the Lord's Prayer and the blessings in common use
- Singing a wide variety of hymns and songs from traditional to modern
- Experiencing Christian symbols in worship and reflecting on their meaning
- The use of prayer, silence and reflection
- Using Anglican sentences and responses at the beginning and end of worship
- Celebrating Eucharist

Planning Worship (see Appendix 1)

Collective worship is planned by a variety of stakeholders including staff, pupils, the incumbent of our local church and external visitors (such as other local faith leaders) in consultation with the collective worship leader. This act of worship can take place at any time of the school day and in any regular school grouping e.g. whole school, year group or class. Our school plans worship systematically and cohesively using *ideas from a range of books and online sources including assemblies.org.uk, Imaginor and 12 Baskets*. Resources are adapted and changed to meet the needs of our community. This ensures that there is a shared understanding of the long and short term planning of worship and this enables continuity. Visitors to our school are asked to read and comply with this policy as well as our school safeguarding policies: <https://standrews.calderdale.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/SafeguardingPolicy-2019-20-1.pdf>). This should include discussing the content of any worship with the collective worship leader in order to ascertain its suitability for the school community. Visitors are never left alone with children as the supervision of pupils remains the responsibility of school staff.

Expectations of pupils

Expectations of pupil behaviour are commensurate with our whole school behaviour policy.

KS2 Pupils regularly plan and lead worship on a voluntary basis. They work with the collective worship leader during *lunchtimes* to develop their own understanding of worship and to design a worship to support the spiritual development of their peers. Year 5 & 6 pupils visit the Infant School to lead worship half termly.

Developing Worship

The school allocates part of its budget to support collect worship. Governors recognise the need for professional development of staff in the review and delivery of collective worship and ensure training is offered on both an individual and whole staff basis. The collective worship leader attends regular professional development with the Diocese of Leeds and accesses the support of the named adviser through the Enhanced Service Plan to ensure that worship is inclusive, invitational and inspirational.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Our school regularly evaluates the breadth of acts of collective worship (Appendix 2 Infant Feedback sheet) and the impact it has on the school and its wider community. This involves monitoring by school leaders, staff, pupils and governors in order for worship to grow and develop. We also welcome the contributions of parents and pupils through work with the school council. Views are also collected from pupils in each class worship book which are reviewed and considered on a regular basis. These are shared with our school council and discussed with SLT and play and integral part in developing the spiritual growth of the school. Worship is independently inspected by law under Section 48 of the Education Act 2005.

The legal requirements of collective worship in Voluntary Aided and Voluntary Controlled schools.

- Be conducted in accordance with the provision of the Trust Deeds of the school and Instrument of Government and should be consistent with the beliefs and practices of the Church of England
- The Governing Body should ensure that all pupils **each day** engage meaningfully in a real act of Christian worship which is in accordance with the faith and practice of the Church
- Arrangements for collective worship, in foundation schools of a religious character, are the responsibility of the Governing Body, after consulting with the Headteacher (*DfE Circular 1/94 para 52 & 53*)
- All acts of worship in Church schools must be Christian in character (based on Biblical teachings)
- All registered pupils (apart from those whose parents exercise the right to withdraw) must on 'each school day take part in an act of collective worship'

Parental Withdrawal

Worship is regarded as special time which wholly reflects our ethos as a church school. It is an inclusive opportunity for those of all faiths and none. We respect the right of parents to withdraw their child/children from acts of

collective worship. However, as collective worship is central to our ethos, we would appreciate the opportunity to discuss this decision with parents.

Date of validation..... Signed.....
Chair of Governors
Date of review..... Signed.....
Chair of Governors

Appendix I: The Rhythm of our Worship at St. Andrew's CE (VA) Infant and Junior Schools

The following pattern is followed, providing a daily rhythm to our worship

Gathering	<i>We aim to ensure children 'cross a threshold' into worship. The Infant School have Y2 Worship Welcomers who prepare the hall and greet classes at the entrance doors. We gather in worship to the sound of music. The music plays before the children arrive as a 'call' to worship. In whole school worship children bring their class pebble to create a school cairn on the altar. An adult lights the three candles and recites the following liturgy 'The first is God the father who made the world. The second is for God the Son who came to Earth. The third is for God the Holy Spirit who is on Earth as our helper and friend.' Whoever leads worship begins with the greeting: 'Welcome to our worship, peace be with you' children and adults respond with 'and also with you'.</i>
Engaging	<i>We aim to stimulate the interest of children through a range of storytelling, drama, activities, poetry, videos, slides etc. around a single simple focus. Children join in with a hymn.</i>
Actively responding	<i>In every worship session, children and adults will have an opportunity to respond to the focus of the worship. This may simply be through prayer and reflection but we try to provide for the range of pupils we have. In class worship time we encourage children to respond to the theme personally and deeply.</i>
Sending	<i>Worship always ends with the words 'The Lord bless us and keep us'. Children and adults respond with Amen. The candles are blown out. Children leave to sound of music and the children collect their pebbles and return to their classes.</i>

The following ongoing weekly pattern is generally followed:

Infant School

Monday	10.20	Whole School Worship led by the Head of School or another staff member to introduce the theme and set the tone for the week.
Tuesday	10.20	Sing and Celebrate Whole School hymn practice, with prayer/reflection time, led by two staff members on a rota basis.
Wednesday	10.20	Whole School Worship led by a member of the local clergy of St Martin's Parish Church, Head of School or another staff member.
Thursday	10.20	Class worship in each classroom based on the weekly theme with chance to reflect and ask questions.

Friday	9.05	Whole School Family Worship led by a class, John Froud, , The Deputy Executive Head , Assistant Head or another teacher 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.
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Our long term cycle of worship provides a rhythm to the year:

Infant School

	Year A	Year B
Autumn 1	<i>Generosity</i>	<i>Thankfulness</i>
	Harvest	Harvest
Autumn 2	<i>Compassion</i>	<i>Trust</i>
	Advent and Christmas	Advent and Christmas
Spring 1	<i>Courage</i>	<i>Perseverance</i>
	Epiphany	Epiphany
Spring 2	<i>Forgiveness</i>	<i>Justice</i>
	Lent and Easter	Lent and Easter
Summer 1	<i>Friendship</i>	<i>Service</i>
	Pentecost	Pentecost
Summer 2	<i>Respect</i>	<i>Truthfulness</i>
	The Lord's Prayer Trinity	The Lord's Prayer Trinity

Junior School

Monday	1.05pm	<i>Executive Head or Assistant Head Teacher leads worship to introduce the theme and set the tone for the week.</i>
Tuesday	1.05pm	<i>Whole School Worship led by a member of the local clergy of St Martin's Parish Church on alternate weeks. On other weeks, led by the Head of School or another staff member</i>
Wednesday	1.05pm	<i>'Songs of Praise' - A musical act of collective worship (alternate weeks). Class teachers lead the collective worship based on the theme discussed earlier in the week (alternate weeks).</i>
Thursday	1.05pm	<i>Class Worship: Staff lead their own worship to ensure pupil participation and responses are more precisely tailored to the particular class– thoughts, prayers and reflections to be captured in reflection books/areas. Class worship follows the same daily rhythm.</i>
Friday	2.45pm	<i>Thanksgiving – a celebration assembly to recognise the talents and gifts held in school.</i>

Our long term cycle of worship provides a rhythm to the year:

Junior School

	Year A	Year B	Year C
Autumn 1	<i>Thankfulness</i>	<i>Compassion</i>	<i>Wisdom</i>
	Harvest	Harvest	Harvest

Autumn 2	<i>Galatians 5:22-23 Hope</i>	<i>1 Corinthians 12:12-27 Friendship</i>	<i>1 Corinthians 13:4-8 Endurance</i>
	<i>Advent and Christmas</i>	<i>Advent and Christmas</i>	<i>Advent and Christmas</i>
Spring 1	<i>Peace Epiphany</i>	<i>Humility Epiphany</i>	<i>Service Epiphany</i>
Spring 2	<i>The Lord's Prayer Trust and Truthfulness</i>	<i>Sermon on the Mount Respect</i>	<i>Parables of Jesus Justice</i>
	<i>Lent and Easter</i>	<i>Lent and Easter</i>	<i>Lent and Easter</i>
Summer 1	<i>Forgiveness</i>	<i>Responsibility</i>	<i>Creation</i>
	<i>Pentecost Trinity</i>	<i>Pentecost Trinity</i>	<i>Pentecost Trinity</i>
Summer 2	<i>Old Testament: The Law</i>	<i>Old Testament: The Prophets</i>	<i>Old Testament: The Writings</i>

Appendix 2:

St Andrew's CE (VA) Infant School



Worship...

What do you think?

Date of worship _____

Who was the worship for....?

Our
whole
school

Our whole school family
(Mums, dads, grandmas,
babies..)

Our
class

Our Year
group

What happened during the worship?

Story, prayer, singing, projector, visitor, acting, who took part?

What was the worship like?

Quiet, fun, noisy, lots to join in, interesting, gave me time to think!

Draw a face to show how much you enjoyed your worship today!

Would you have changed anything about worship today?