



## Collective Worship Policy

Updated: September 2024

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Name of school	Hatfield Peverel St Andrew's Junior School
School vision	Every child is loved and known, every child shines. 'Let your light Shine' Matthew 5:16

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### Introduction

Our Collective Worship Policy strengthens and supports the Christian ethos of our school, explores our vision Every child is loved and known, every child shines. 'Let your light Shine' Matthew 5:16 and the associated values we derive from them Compassion, Achievement, Respect and Enjoyment (CARE). Our worship reflects the variety of traditions found in the Church of England and will recognise and follow the Christian liturgical year.

Worship in our school is not simply a statutory duty. The daily Christian act of collective worship is the heartbeat of our school, 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.

The aims and purpose of Collective Worship as defined by the Education Reform Act 1988 are as follows:

- To provide an opportunity for the children to worship God.
- To enable children to consider spiritual and moral issues.
- To enable children to explore their own beliefs.
- To encourage participation and response
- To develop in children a sense of community spirit
- To promote a common ethos with shared values and to reinforce positive attitudes.

### Legal Requirements

We seek to comply with the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 (Section 70 and Schedule 20) which requires that:

- All registered pupils (apart from those whose parents exercise the right to withdrawal) must on each school day take part in an act of Collective Worship.
- The daily act of Collective Worship should be conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Trust Deeds of the school and the ethos statement in the Instrument of



Government, and should be consistent with the beliefs and practices of the Church of England.

- All acts of Collective Worship in Church schools must be Christian in character. Pupils can be grouped in various ways for worship such as the whole school, year groups, tutor groups, classes, or other combinations.
- Acts of worship must be appropriate for the pupils in that they should take account of the pupils' age, aptitude and family backgrounds.
- The daily act of Collective Worship will normally take place on the school premises but all schools are able to hold their Act of Collective Worship elsewhere (e.g. the local Parish Church) on special occasions.
- Responsibility for the arrangement of Collective Worship in a Church of England school rests with the Local Governing Body in consultation with the Principal/Headteacher.

## Principles of collective worship

Each adult and pupil will experience worship that is truly welcoming, inclusive and exemplifying the principles of Christian hospitality (see Church of England's Collective Worship Guidance).<sup>1</sup> Collective worship therefore will be:

- **Inclusive** – Our acts of worship recognise that pupils and staff come from homes of different faith backgrounds as well as no faith backgrounds, so it will be inclusive of, and fully accessible to all. Care will be taken to ensure that language used by those facilitating worship avoids assuming faith of those participating, listening or watching.
- **Invitational** – In our acts of worship, there is no compulsion to 'do anything'. Rather, worship will provide the opportunity to engage whilst allowing the freedom of those of different faiths and those who profess no religious faith to be present and to engage with integrity. Pupils and adults will only be invited to pray and sing if they wish to do so.
- **Inspiring** – By asking and discussing big questions about who we are and what we do in worship we hope to motivate pupils and adults into action. There will be opportunities to think, reflect and ponder on their and the wider community's behaviour and actions.

## Implementation

In addition to the above, we seek to provide acts of Collective Worship that reflect the faith and practice of the Church of England. Therefore:

We use the Bible as a sourcebook for inspiration and learning and make pupils familiar with the Lord's Prayer, psalms and other verses of scripture. We also introduce them to a variety of well-known prayers – many of which express the central beliefs of Christians throughout the ages.

We use aspects of Anglican liturgy to create a framework for worship by gathering together (with

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2021-05/Collective%20Worship%20Guidance%2018052021.pdf>

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a greeting 'As we meet together, we remember our school vision...'), through call and response and collective prayer. We engage in worship through sharing of song, stories, animated bible passages etc. The children are encouraged to respond and reflect through discussion, the use of the 'windows, mirrors, doors and candles analogy, and making links with their personal experiences. We end with a prayer and a blessing 'peace be with you, and also with you' led by the children, and encourage them to consider how their worship has changed or challenged them today. We observe the cycle of the Anglican year including celebrations of the major Christian festivals.

In St Andrew's Junior School, we aim to provide worship spaces which are attractive and well prepared with appropriate thought having been given to colour, space, seating, ambience and music.

We foster links with St Andrew's Church, involving the Reverend Howard in leading collective worship and providing coherence between worship in church and school and visit four times per year as part of the Christian calendar.

We recognise that different members of our school community spiritually reflect in different ways. Music, story, silence, prayer, drama and other approaches are incorporated within a varied collective worship offer.

## **Connections with other Christian denominations and faiths**

The Anglican Communion sees itself as part of a global church and promotes ecumenism. At St Andrew's Junior School, we work to promote links with other local churches and Christian organisations and welcome their clergy and leaders as contributors to acts of collective worship. We recognise that while some of our pupils and families belong to Anglican churches, many worship regularly at churches of other Christian denominations, while others come from different faith backgrounds or none. We endeavor to provide a setting in which the integrity of those present is not compromised, where everyone finds something positive for themselves and there is no pressure to participate inappropriately or to believe.

## **Rights and Responsibilities**

As established by the 1944 Act and reinforced through this policy, parents have the right to withdraw their children from Collective Worship. However, having chosen to send their children to St Andrew's Junior School, it is hoped that no one will exercise this right. Should such a situation arise, appropriate arrangements would be made in keeping with the requirements of the Act.



## **Our Collective Worship Pattern and Practice**

### **Leadership**

- Worship is the ultimate responsibility of the headteacher.
- All members of the community are engaged and actively participate in worship.
- Spirituality is led by Mrs Black.
- Picture News is led by Mrs Dutaut
- Worship News is led by the class teachers
- iSingPop and Smart School Council are student led.
- Shine Assembly is led by Mrs Black, supported by all teaching staff.

### **Planning**

- The headteacher and deputy have responsibility for planning the Collective Worship diary.
- All members of the school community participate in Collective Worship. Children lead prayer and blessings, share their reflections through the use of 'Ows, Wows and Nows; and 'Windows, Mirrors, Doors and Candles'. Children contribute to the planning, evaluation and delivery of Collective Worship through our fortnightly Smart School Council sessions.
- Our Collective Worship planning reflect the Church calendar by including all key festivals and celebrations.
- The Christian values of the school are part of everything that we do; in our school prayer, in our reflections and responses, and especially in our Friday 'Shine' worship.
- Bible stories are shared in our Collective Worship, that make links to our learning, to current events and pupil experiences, and to global religions that share that explore similar moral concepts.
- Collective Worship at St Andrew's follows Anglican traditional, through the inclusion of daily prayer, reflection and blessings. The Collective Worship calendar follows the Anglican church calendar in celebrating and studying Christian celebrations.
- A wide range of resources are used to celebrate God within our Collective Worship; these include both in-person and virtual worship (so worship is accessible to all members of our community every day), displays, slides shows, theatrical performances, stories, crafts, Explore Collective Worship, Worship News and iSingPop.
- Every week, we explore a global event through the Picture news resource, which we then link to a Bible passage in order to discuss the wider theological and moral concepts that link to it.
- The children will begin to understand and explore the nature of the Trinity, grounded in a detailed understanding of the Bible

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- Children are given opportunities for and are encouraged to grow spiritually. This is through invitation to pray, through stillness and through reflection on a picture, artwork, story, piece of music or dance.

## **Organisation**

In order to achieve the aims outlined above, we hold a daily act of Collective Worship. This is at 9:30am preparing us for our school day as we join together as a Christian community. It takes place in the school hall on a Monday and Friday; we use Google classroom for collective worship on a Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday- allowing the opportunity for our digital leaders to support these sessions and all pupils to participate fully. The children sit in year groups from year 6 at the back to year 3 at the front. Staff sit around the edge of the hall.

## **Gathering**

We create an invitational, worshipful and spiritual atmosphere for our Collective Worship to take place which provides an opportunity to engage whilst allowing the freedom of those of different faiths and those who profess no religious faith to be present and to engage with integrity. Often music is played as pupils enter the hall silently, to prepare them for this special time. A spiritual or thought-provoking image is often used to engage the pupils' interest and encourage them to reflect whilst waiting.

Once all of the pupils are gathered we welcome one another 'As we meet together, we all remember our school vision 'Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works.' *When we are housed in a solid building we will reintroduce using a candle in our Collective Worship.*

## **Engaging**

We aim for the worship they encounter to be inspirational and a time when the school community can explore big questions about who we are and why we do what we do. We believe that Collective Worship should be an inclusive and engaging experience for all of the pupils, and our worship songs will often include actions. Our pupils take the lead role in prayers and leading our blessing at the end of the worship. Each Friday we look all forward to our Shine Celebration- where the children are recognised for shining in one of our Christian CARE values (Compassion, achievement, respect and Enjoyment). We believe that our achievements and what we shine in are our 'God given gifts and talents'.

## **Responding and Reflecting**

In each act of Collective Worship there are opportunities for the children to respond and reflect on the theme, story or stimulus used. They are encouraged to consider their spirituality using the concept of



mirrors (thinking about themselves and how they feel about things), windows (Looking at the world in new ways), doors (understanding how other people feel) and candles (Reflecting on our learning and experiences).

We use Smart School Council as a process to develop the children's courageous advocacy, this has resulted in 'Passion projects' being an embedded aspect of how children respond to their thoughts and reflections in collective worship.

We have regular visits from Reverend Howard (an ordained member of our parish ministry team) and leaders from the Methodist Church annually. We visit our parish church, St. Andrew's, throughout the school year and pupils from various year groups take an active role in leading these services. Parents are invited to join us at Easter and Christmas.

## **Resourcing, Staff development and training**

The budget for Collective Worship is distinct from the budget for Religious Education. There is a wide selection of assembly books and artefacts which we regularly update and improve. We ensure that all staff, including support staff, receive appropriate training and opportunities for professional development, both as individuals and as groups or teams.

## **Visitor Leaders to Collective Worship**

We welcome visitors to lead and participate in our Collective Worship. Visiting Collective Worship Leaders are asked to read and comply with our school visitor and safeguarding policies. The welcoming member of staff/headteacher/Collective Worship Lead will discuss with the visitor, prior to the visitor leading Collective Worship, the content, expectations and practices of Collective Worship. The purpose is 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.

## **Contribution to Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development**

We recognise that although SMSC development should be fostered across the whole curriculum, acts of Collective Worship provide a multitude of opportunities in this area. For example, children will be encouraged to reflect on and celebrate the deeper meanings of life, consider their own behaviour and recognise the need for forgiveness, appreciate the contributions of others and respond to their needs, value their own culture and the cultures of others.

## **Monitoring and Evaluation**

Our Collective Worship practice is regularly reviewed through discussions with pupils and staff through observations and reflections. These evaluations feed into the planning and delivery of future worship.

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Collective Worship is monitored by the Headteacher, Worship Crew, and Rachel Wright (governor). The school development plan has 3 targets relating to improvement of religious practice at the school.

## **Inclusion**

We are committed to equality of opportunity regardless of race, gender, cultural background, ability or any physical or sensory disability. We therefore aim to make Collective Worship accessible to all and accommodate ourselves to individual needs when appropriate.

## **Implementation of Policy**

The headteacher as Collective Worship Coordinator is responsible for this policy which will be reviewed every two years. Its implementation is the responsibility of all those planning and leading Collective Worship.

## **Review**

This policy will be reviewed every two years.

Written By:	<b>Rebecca Black and Allison Dutaut</b>
Adopted By:	<b>St Andrew's Governing Board</b>
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