



Collective Worship Policy

St. Andrew's C of E Primary School

July 2019

Collective Worship:

At St. Andrew's we value collective worship as an important part of school life, which should be planned and implemented sensitively and effectively. Worship is all about recognising and responding to God through different experiences, for example: music, prayers, readings and reflections. Worship is for the whole school community and should involve children, staff, parents and Governors when appropriate. Often collective worship is part of an assembly. During an assembly other activities may take place for example celebrating achievement. It is important however that a time of collective worship takes place daily and should therefore always be an integral part of the school.

The aims of our Collective Worship:

- To nurture an appreciation of God
- To enhance spiritual development
- To enable reflection, prayer and silence
- To create an atmosphere in which God is known to be a part of everyday life
- To nurture empathy and imagination
- To explore and enjoy prayer, praise and the rituals of the varied traditions of Christianity
- To affirm the Christian faith and the Christian understanding of Jesus as the Son of God
- To enable and value a search for a faith by which to live
- To learn about and reflect upon Christian Teaching, Biblical material and Christian festivals
- To worship together rather than apart
- To provide an evocative setting for worship

Other assembly activity aims:

- To recognise the beliefs and cultures of others, particularly those represented in the school community
- To consider the needs of others and to foster charitable works
- To be challenging and inspiring
- To celebrate the highest achievements of the human spirit
- To celebrate achievements of members of the school that are held to be of worth
- To nurture a thought provoking atmosphere allowing for spiritual reflection and response

Key Christian Beliefs and Values explored during Collective Worship:

Christian beliefs: Creation, Incarnation & Salvation

Values: Excellence, Nurture, Respect, Integrity, Community & Hope

Paul wrote to the early church 'That in everything you are enriched by him, in all utterance, and in all knowledge.' (1 Corinthians 1.5). This is equally true for the church and for us as a Christian school today. These Christian values underpin our relationships with others and our mission to serve the community of Soham.

The values identified as 'British Values' are also explored during collective worship as we strive to prepare our pupils socially, emotionally, culturally and spiritually for their life in Modern Britain.

Themes for Collective Worship: Themes for worship are drafted by the Collective Worship Coordinator, in collaboration with clergy members within the community and agreed by the Senior Leadership Team of the school. Themes take account of appropriate festivals and the experiences of children. While themes should ordinarily be

followed, worship leaders are free to change the content of the worship to take account of current events or incidents which may arise which affect the school community. We also accept that not every eventuality can be planned for, and there should be room in any act of worship for spontaneity and opportunity to respond 'in the moment'.

Evidence: A record of all collective worship is collated in half-termly Collective Worship Plans so that the themes and experiences can be reviewed and evaluated.

Organisation:

Monday: Whole school worship - Head

Tuesday: Whole School Singing Assembly led by Mr Anderson and Mrs Bell

Wednesday: Whole school worship – Singing, prayer and Bible-teaching led by Rev. Eleanor Whalley, Vicar of Soham or, once every half term, by either Rev. Colin Watkins or Pastor Colin Stringer, Methodist and Baptist Ministers in Soham respectively. All staff are encouraged to attend.

Thursday: Class Assemblies based upon identified School ENRICH Value.

Friday: Celebration Assembly and ENRICH values award based upon our Christian Values.

Worship Leaders: Whole school worship is often led by senior staff and the clergy. However, all staff share in leading worship through class based worship. We believe that children should take part, when appropriate, in leading worship and we sensitively involve them as much as possible.

Format: We believe a reflective atmosphere should be encouraged and an awareness of the importance of worship. During times of worship there should be an opportunity to listen to music; sometimes to prepare for worship and sometimes to provoke worship. Collective Worship is based on the principles of Christian beliefs and generally reflects the language and rituals of the Church of England. Stories, lessons, readings, further prayers and songs may also form part of the worship as well as any action that facilitates an awareness of God. There will be times when the theme will be moralistic. If this is so there must still be a time when 'worship' takes place for example during a time of reflection or prayer or singing a song. It is important to acknowledge the end to the time of collective worship, this can be done through blowing out a candle or a closing prayer or some other action. Worship takes place in class, in the hall, in St Andrew's Church and occasionally outside.

Prayer: We should all be aware that prayer is a conversation it is not a one way experience and time should be given to audibly take part, listen to prayers being read and listen to God. Time given for individuals to say their own/private prayers in silence or aloud should take place regularly. A time for reflection is very important and there is a reflection area in the school library. The school has its own prayers for lunch and home times that the children are learning and will use at appropriate times. In addition, children are familiar with the Lord's Prayer, which is used regularly in class and whole school worship.

Music: Music can be very important in worship and is valued at St. Andrew's School. We encourage children and adults to share their musical gifts. The school has a resource bank of hymns and songs as well as music to listen to. One of our hymns ('I believe') is a song pupils composed themselves, under the guidance of a school staff member.

Symbolism: A table at the front of the hall is used to place a candle, cross and other objects (for example, flowers) to provoke reflection and worship. The table will also have a coloured cover that reflects the Church season. There are artefacts within the R.E. resources which may be used as aids.

Links with the Community & Parents: We welcome the times when we can invite and involve others in worship. Parents are invited to acts of Collective Worship held in St Andrew's Church at important dates of the Christian calendar (eg. Harvest, Christmas and Easter), and to our annual end of year services that are held in church.

St. Andrew's Church: We value the use of the church to hold times of collective worship. The whole school takes part in various acts of Collective Worship at significant times in the Church calendar (see above). In addition, every Year group makes a visit to St Andrew's Church during the course of the school year. These visits may include opportunities for prayer (eg. writing or drawing a prayer on a post-it note and sticking it on the cross), though children and adults are given the option of taking part or not in such an activity.

Right of withdrawal Collective Worship: At St. Andrew's C of E Primary School aims to be inclusive but we respect the legal right of parents to withdraw their children from Collective Worship with written permission. We also respect the right of teachers to withdraw from Collective Worship, although recruitment procedures will ensure appointed staff are sympathetic with the aims of a Church school.