



# **St Aidan's CE Primary School**

## **Collective Worship Policy**

Policy will be reviewed by January 2023

## **Aims and purpose**

- The aims and purpose of collective worship are to provide an opportunity for the children to worship God
- to provide an opportunity for the children to experience and respond to awe and wonder
- to provide an opportunity for the children to know what it means to be the children of God
- to enable children to consider spiritual and moral issues
- to enable children to explore their own beliefs and the beliefs of others
- to develop empathy
- to develop in children a sense of community spirit as we share our achievements, joys and difficulties
- to promote a common ethos with shared values
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## **Collective worship**

- We understand worship to be a special act or occasion whose purpose is to show reverence to God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
- Collective worship at St Aidan's is distinctively Christian and in accordance with the rites, practices and doctrines of the Church of England.
- Collective worship takes place as a whole school assembly or in individual classes.
- We expect everyone to attend and take an active part in collective worship and staff and pupil omissions are kept to a minimum.
- While all the acts of worship in our school are Christian, they sometimes include reflection on other faiths that are represented in the school and the wider community. We conduct all our acts of worship with sensitivity to the faith and beliefs of all members of the school.

## **Organisation of collective worship**

- As a Voluntary Controlled Church of England School, the Governing Body is responsible for the management of collective worship, in collaboration with the headteacher. The foundation governors have a particular responsibility to preserve and develop the religious character of the school.
- Collective worship is planned on a termly basis by the Senior Leadership Team, in consultation with the nominated governor.
- We hold a daily act of collective worship in our school.
- We conduct the time of collective worship in a dignified and respectful way. We regard it as a special time and expect everyone to behave in an appropriate way entering and leaving in silence. We ask the children to be quiet and thoughtful and to listen carefully to the teachings and participate fully in prayer and songs.
- We create an appropriate atmosphere by using a Bible, 'The Cross', music and candle focal points for the attention of the children.
- Our worship has a clear Christian focus with the symbolic candle and introduction 'May the light and peace of Jesus Christ, be with you all'.

- The Senior Leadership Team, the vicar, church parishioners or other members of staff lead collective worship for the whole school. Sometimes other visitors e.g. from other faiths are invited to lead the worship.

The pattern for the week is:

Time: 1.10-1.25pm

Monday	Whole School Worship led by Father Shaun/Rev Anna
Tuesday	Whole School Worship led by Headteacher
Wednesday	Worship through Music - Hymn Practice
Thursday	Class Worship
Friday	Celebration Assembly

### Planning

- We plan our worship each term, through a themed approach.
- Through the course of the year our worship includes
  1. Seasons and festivals of the Christian Year
  2. Teachings of Jesus and the bible
  3. Christian beliefs and practices, including the central place of forgiveness, prayer, the bible and the sacraments.
  4. Current events & issues and links with school curriculum
  5. Some topics linked with the PSHCE and SEAL curriculum (making use of the Diocesan 'Values for Life' materials)
  6. Use of Open the Book assemblies encouraging participation from parishioners from the church.
- Celebrating achievement, both individual and team achievements
- The school attends the Church for services linked to the major festivals in the Christian year. These are led by our children and drama, music, readings, prayers etc are incorporated.
- We make use of a variety of styles and approaches in leading worship including story telling, drama, visual aids, role play, etc. We include moments for reflection and prayer within our worship time.
- Our worship reflects the achievements and learning of the children. We encourage the children to take part by participating in drama, reading, leading prayer etc. Our Celebration Assembly offers an opportunity to acknowledge and reward children for their achievements both in and out of school. It plays an important part in promoting the ethos of the school, which is that all children are valued and all achievements are recognised. St Aidan's CE School is a successful school and we shall celebrate the successes of all.
- We welcome parents and carers and governors to our church service and special worship in school.

### **Right of withdrawal**

- We expect all children to attend worship. However, any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from attending religious worship and the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during the period concerned. Parents do not have to explain or give reasons for this.

### **Monitoring and review**

- Records are kept of the acts of worship held in our school.
- We are committed to evaluating the quality and effectiveness of our acts of worship. We do this by self-evaluation by leaders, consultation with staff and consultation with the school council.
- It is the role of a named school governor with responsibility for religious education and collective worship to monitor the policy and practice of collective worship. The governor concerned liaises with the headteacher before reporting to the governors on religious education and collective worship.
- The policy will be reviewed annually.