



COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

DOCUMENT STATUS

Author:	GM/HD	Version :	4
Reason for change :	Updated to align with new leadership vision		
Approved by:	Full Governing Body	Status:	Approved
Date of Approval:	22 July 2026	Next review:	June 2029

Vision and Values

Rooted in our Christian Faith, we believe everybody is uniquely made in the image of God, deeply valued and loved. We are committed to nurturing the whole child - academically, socially, emotionally and spiritually - so that all can achieve their full potential. Through an ambitious, enriching curriculum and excellent teaching, we lay the foundations for lifelong learning and personal growth, preparing children to live life in all its fullness.

We aim to inspire our children to believe in themselves and in one another - encouraging resilience, hope and a sense of purpose. We care for and respect each other, creating a safe, inclusive and compassionate community where diversity is celebrated, everyone's voice is heard and every story matters. United in faith and fellowship, we recognise that we are stronger together - learning, growing and flourishing side by side.

This is underpinned by our Bible verse, 'Let all that you do be done in love' 1 Corinthians 16:14

At St Andrew's Church of England Primary School, collective worship is the heartbeat of our school community. It is a cherished daily opportunity to gather as a school family, deepen our understanding of God and the Christian faith, celebrate our achievements and reflect on how we can live out our Christian vision each day.

Inspired by the Church of England's Vision for Education, we seek to enable every member of our community to flourish. Through worship, we encourage children and adults to develop spiritually, to grow in wisdom, hope and dignity, and to become compassionate citizens who make a positive difference within our community and beyond.

Our worship reflects our six Christian Values:

- Community
- Compassion
- Trust
- Forgiveness
- Endurance
- Friendship

These values are rooted in the teachings of Jesus and provide the foundation for life at St Andrew's.

Collective worship at St Andrew's

Collective worship is central to the distinctive Christian character of our school. It is inclusive, invitational and inspiring, ensuring that everyone, regardless of faith or belief, feels welcomed, respected and valued.

Each half-term carefully planned acts of worship provides opportunities for pupils and adults to:

- encounter Christian teaching and biblical stories
- explore our Christian vision and values
- experience moments of awe, wonder and reflection
- develop spiritually through prayer and quiet reflection
- ask and discuss life's "big questions"
- celebrate God's love within our school community
- respond through action, compassion and courageous advocacy.

Legal Requirements

St Andrew's Church of England Primary School meets the statutory requirements for collective worship as set out in:

- **The Education Reform Act 1988**, which requires all registered pupils to take part in a daily act of collective worship.
- **The School Standards and Framework Act 1998**, which continues these requirements and sets out arrangements for schools with a religious character.
- **The Collective Worship in Schools (Circular 1/94)** guidance issued by the Department for Education, which explains that collective worship should be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character unless otherwise determined.
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As a Church of England school, our collective worship is distinctly Christian and reflects the traditions and practices of the Church of England, whilst remaining inclusive, invitational and inspiring for all members of our school community. Parents have the legal right to withdraw their child, wholly or partly, from collective worship under **Section 71 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998**. Any parent wishing to exercise this right is encouraged to discuss their request with the Headteacher.

Teaching staff also have the legal right to withdraw from leading collective worship in accordance with **Section 59 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998**.

Our principles

At St. Andrew's it is our aim for collective worship to be Inclusive, Invitational and Inspiring.

Inclusive

Everyone is welcomed into worship and encouraged to participate in ways that are meaningful to them. Worship respects the diversity of our school community and recognises that individuals will engage from different faith perspectives or none.

Children are invited—not expected—to participate in prayer and reflection, and opportunities are always provided to reflect quietly in their own way.

Invitational

Collective worship creates space to encounter God without compulsion. Prayer, silence and reflection are offered as invitations, allowing every member of our community to engage authentically.

Inspiring

Our worship seeks to inspire children to become people of hope, compassion and courage.

Children are encouraged to consider how Christian teaching influences the way we care for ourselves, one another and the wider world. Worship motivates pupils to become courageous advocates who seek justice, show kindness and serve others.

Organisation

Throughout the week, we aim to provide a variety of worship experiences for the children. These include:

- Whole school worship led by the Head teacher
- Key Stage worship led by key stage leaders
- Class based worship led by teaching staff with children's involvement
- Reflection and celebration worship led by the Head teacher or the Deputy Head teacher

The worship should last approximately 15 minutes

Planning, Content and Detail

Collective worship is carefully planned to reflect:

- our Christian Vision
- our six Christian Values
- the Church's liturgical year
- biblical teaching
- the life and teachings of Jesus
- current local, national and global events
- opportunities for courageous advocacy
- pupil voice.

Bible stories form the foundation of worship and help children understand God's Big Story—from Creation to the Kingdom of God—and how it relates to their own lives.

Prayer and Reflection

Prayer is an important part of daily worship. Children experience a variety of prayers including:

- traditional Christian prayers
- spontaneous prayer
- our school prayer
- prayers written by pupils
- moments of silence and reflection.

Every act of worship includes time for reflection, allowing children to think deeply about themselves, others, the world and, for those who wish, their relationship with God.

Each classroom contains a reflection area linked to the current Christian Value, and dedicated prayer spaces throughout the school provide opportunities for personal prayer and quiet reflection.

Spiritual development

Collective worship plays a significant role in nurturing spirituality. Through worship, children are encouraged to:

- experience awe and wonder
- ask life's big questions
- reflect on their own beliefs and values
- appreciate beauty and creation
- recognise God's presence in everyday life
- develop hope and resilience
- grow in empathy and compassion.

Pupil leadership

Children play an active role in shaping worship. Pupils contribute through:

- contributing to class worships
- leading prayers
- music and singing
- evaluating worship
- developing prayer/reflection spaces.

Courageous advocacy

Inspired by the teachings of Jesus, collective worship encourages pupils to respond to injustice with compassion and action.

Children are encouraged to become courageous advocates through charitable fundraising, environmental stewardship, community partnerships and acts of service, demonstrating God's love in practical ways.

Partnership with the Church

Our close partnership with St Andrew's Church enriches the spiritual life of our school.

Regular worship in church, visits from Rev. Philippa, participation in major Christian festivals and shared celebrations strengthen children's understanding of Anglican tradition and their place within the wider Christian community.

Monitoring and evaluation

Collective worship is continually monitored and developed through pupil evaluations and staff reflection.

Feedback informs future planning and ensures worship remains relevant, engaging and deeply rooted in our Christian vision.

Equal Opportunities and Special Needs Issues

Collective worship is inclusive and accessible to all, ensuring that every member of our school community can participate in ways that are meaningful and appropriate to their individual needs.

We are committed to providing an environment in which pupils of all abilities, backgrounds, cultures and faiths, including those with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), feel welcomed, respected and able to flourish. Reasonable adaptations are made where necessary to ensure all pupils can engage fully in worship.

Children are encouraged to participate in worship in ways that are appropriate to them, recognising that engagement may look different for different individuals. Opportunities for prayer, reflection, music and drama are planned to enable every child to contribute according to their strengths and abilities.

Our collective worship reflects our Christian vision of dignity, inclusion and belonging, celebrating the uniqueness of every individual and ensuring that all members of our school family experience God's love and are supported to flourish.