



Policy for Collective Worship

St Anne's Church Academy

In our school our Christian vision shapes all we do.

This is based upon the message in the book of Corinthians.

“Love is Patient, Love is Kind, Love Never Fails – 1 Corinthians 13”

<https://stanneschurchacademy.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/Learn-to-love-love-to-learn.png>

Our vision influences the ethos of our school and the policies and practices within it.

‘Collective Worship in a Church school should enable every child and adult to flourish and to live life in all its fullness. (John 10:10). It will help educate for wisdom, knowledge and skills, hope and aspiration, dignity and respect, and developing community and understanding of living well together.’

At St Anne's Church academy, worship is central to the life of school and is the main platform for exploring the school's vision and values. It is well planned and of high quality so that the whole school community is engaged on a journey of discovery, exploring the teachings of Jesus and the Bible.

For Christians in Church, worship is about honouring God and responding to the loving nature of God as revealed through the Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. A school is not a Church but is a collection of people who come from a variety of backgrounds for the purpose of education.

At St Anne's Church academy, collective worship aims to be inspirational, invitational and inclusive and will lead people to a threshold where they can witness worship and join in, if they wish.

Through collective Worship, pupils will be offered a space and a place for the telling of the Christian story. They will be offered an understanding of worship through being invited to participate in or observe prayer, reading and reflection on the Bible, liturgy, sacrament and experience of the musical and other imaginative riches of Christianity. Pupils will be given time to consider their responsibilities to others and to grow in love and service. Time will be given for celebration, both for the accomplishments of school members and to mark





the seasonal festivals of the Christian (and other faiths¹) calendar. Pupils will be offered time to be able to contemplate and develop spiritually.²

At St Anne's, our daily worship is distinctly Christian. We follow Roots and Shoots which is a programme of creative collective worship rooting Christian values in stories from the Bible and seasons of the Church calendar. Each worship follows the same structure : Welcome, Learning, Reflecting *and* Responding.

The worship is enriched by the use of:

- Quotes and questions to encourage deeper thinking about each value
- Photographs and posters to root the teaching in the everyday experience of children
- Stories, poems and art, much of which has been especially commissioned for this book
- Prayers and guided reflections from traditional and contemporary authors

Daily worship begins with the lighting of candles and welcome:

'We have gathered today in the presence of God the father, God the son and God the Holy spirit to worship together and think about our value of '

Followed by

'May the Lord be with you' '....and Also with you'

Worship closes with:

'Go in Peace' response 'To learn to love and love to learn in Jesus's name. Amen'

Whole school Collective worship is led by the Principal, Senior leaders every morning in the school hall. Church leaders lead a weekly worship one afternoon a week. Each half term, parents are invited to a family worship focused on the termly value and led by each class. Children's worship is held weekly and led by our year six children in smaller groups around the school . On occasion, class worship is led by class teachers in classrooms and follows the same structure.

The school hall becomes a place of worship by creating an appropriate atmosphere for worship by using:

- Christian signs and symbols, candles, music, a focal point and the liturgical colours of the seasons of the church Year.

The termly Christian values are:

Thankfulness

Respect

¹ Collective Worship in a CofE school must be in alignment with the religious foundation of the school (Christian), however there is a responsibility for schools in all contexts to mark, respond and learn from the festivals of other faiths. This may be designated as a separate act, not to be conflated with collective worship.

² "To worship is to quicken the conscience by the holiness of God, to feed the mind with the truth of God, to purge the imagination by the beauty of God, to open the heart to the love of God and to devote the will to the purpose of God". William Temple (1881-1894)



Friendship
Forgiveness
Trust
Service

At St Anne's , we visit our local churches for Christmas services and Leavers' services.

The Academy council have the responsibility for ensuring that the school meets the requirements for worship detailed in the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Evaluation Document. They are also tasked with monitoring and evaluating the impact of worship on the school community in consultation with the principal.

The right of withdrawal

The 1944 and 1988 Education Acts state that parents have the right to withdraw children from collective worship and suitable arrangements should be made to accommodate these children.

On occasions, a parent may make a request for their child to be withdrawn from Collective Worship. There is an expectation that parents wishing to request a withdrawal will meet with the principal to discuss their concerns and requirements. Where parents have withdrawn their children from collective worship and request religious worship according to their particular faith or denomination, the governors and principal will seek to respond positively to such requests providing:

- Such arrangements can be made at no additional cost to the school
- That the alternative provision would be consistent with the overall purposes of the school curriculum as set out in the Education Acts

If the parent asks that a pupil should be wholly or partly excused from attending any religious worship at the school, then the school must comply.

(This means that a parent may, for example, request their child does not take part in a carol service when otherwise the child takes part in daily collective worship.)

This policy was developed by adapting the Bath and Wells model policy –

<https://www.bathandwells.org.uk/supporting-children/school-effectiveness/collective-worship/>

As a school we ensure that information about collective worship is included in the school prospectus and / or on the school website.

Staff development and training

We ensure that all staff, including support staff, receive appropriate training and opportunities for professional development, both as individuals and as groups or teams. Staff attend Diocesan collective worship training.



Monitoring and evaluation

Collective worship is monitored regularly by RE and collective worship leads and senior leaders. Children's views about the impact of collective worship are captured and reviewed termly and help to support improvements in collective worship practices. Ethos groups help to review the impact of collective worship across the school. Foundation governors monitor and support RE and collective worship leaders in reviewing the impact of collective worship as part of their link governor role.

We ensure that this policy is known to all staff and governors, parents and carers and, as appropriate, to all pupils. This policy is available on our school website.