

Collective Worship Policy

St Andrew's C of E Primary and Nursery School



Approved by: St Andrew's C of E Governing Body **Date:** September 2025

Last reviewed on: September 2025

Next review due by: September 2027

St Andrew's is a County Controlled Church of England primary school and as such conforms to the following legal requirements:

- i) There must be a daily Act of Collective Worship for all registered pupils of compulsory school age
- ii) Teachers have the right to withdraw from Collective Worship
- iii) Parents have the right to withdraw their children from Collective Worship
(Currently, no children or teachers withdraw from Collective Worship)

St Andrews has had an established pattern of Collective Worship since its foundation in 1865, both in school and in the community through its close relationship with St Andrew's Church.

Aims and Purpose

The aims and purpose of Collective Worship are to:

- i) Provide an opportunity for children to worship God and to help children understand the nature and purpose of worship
- ii) Strengthen and support the school community and celebrate each individual member made in the image of God
- iii) Contribute to the spiritual, moral and cultural development of children
- iv) Enable children to explore their own beliefs
- v) Foster and enable a concern for the needs of others – a recognition of the vulnerability of self and others
- vi) Encourage participation and response
- vii) Develop in children a sense of community spirit
- viii) Promote a common ethos with shared values and to reinforce positive attitudes
- ix) Experience stillness and quiet
- x) Celebrate and give thanks for achievements within the school and the local and international communities
- xi) To celebrate occasions of significance, including festivals

Collective Worship

In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act, which states that Collective Worship should be 'wholly or mainly of a Christian character', we normally base our Collective Worship on the teachings of Christ and the traditions of the Christian Church. Collective Worship is conducted in a manner, which is sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs of all members of the school.

We also hold some Collective Worship that reflect other religious traditions that are represented in the school and wider community.

Organisation of Collective Worship

We hold a daily act of Collective Worship in school, which forms part of each assembly.

We create an appropriate atmosphere using music, a cross and candles and other objects that act as a focal point for the attention of the children. Children are expected to behave in a thoughtful and appropriate way and are encouraged to participate fully in the prayers and hymns. Worship opens and closes with Anglican Liturgical style verses and responses which maintain the flow and engage the children in the worship. This also ensures that the worship is distinctively separated from the general notices and day to day issues which

often need to be communicated in an assembly. The prestigious job of Collective Worship monitors is organised by Year 6, who lead the greeting and prayer during Collective Worship.

Themes for the Collective Worship are planned carefully to reflect the values, festivals and traditions of the Christian faith and these are often linked to and build upon topics that we teach as part of the school curriculum including human morals, cultural and social issues. Our Collective Worship also reflects the learning and achievements of the children.

As a school, we use Picture News as a stimulus to discuss relevant, topical issues. Children are encouraged to participate in Collective Worship and show courageous advocacy for topical issues, often speaking out when things are wrong or offering suggestions to make things better. As part of follow up work in class, children reflect on what they have heard and taken part in during worship and their ideas and thoughts are shared through the School Council. As part of our Collective Worship we celebrate a significant person through our 'Luminary Light up' these chosen people are from BAME or SEND backgrounds who have made a substantial contribution to society. Children often research and discuss these figures and they are celebrated through a display in both the KS1 and KS2 buildings.

Children are encouraged to participate in Friday achievement assemblies by showing their work to the other children and are rewarded for demonstrating the Christian Values in school. As part of the achievement assembly, we also celebrate children who have 'pushed out into the deep' within our community as well, children are nominated by parents or carers and their work is celebrated with the other children.

Children also take part in a weekly Key Stage Collective Worship. The themes addressed in those worship sessions include links to bible stories and begin with a relevant bible verse and finish with a prayer.

Staffing

The Headteacher and other staff conduct our assemblies. We also welcome visitors to lead some of our assemblies. Governors' attendance at our Collective Worship is welcomed at any time.

At present, the weekly timetable is as follows:

	Organisation	Staff
Monday	Whole school Collective Worship	Head or Deputy Head
Tuesday	Whole school Collective Worship focused around OPAL and our Christian values.	Senior School Leader
Wednesday	F2/Key stage 1 in class worship	Class Teachers
	Key Stage 2 Singing Collective Worship.	Music Co-ordinator
Thursday	Key stage 2 in class worship	Class Teachers
	F2/ Key Stage 1 Singing Collective Worship.	Senior School Leader
Friday	Awards/Celebration assemblies in Key Stages in hall	Key Stage Staff Teams

Links with St Andrew's Church

The school values its close links with St Andrew's Church and the wider community. Special services are held in the Church at least once a term, sometimes these are split into Key Stages in order that families and friends can join our celebrations.

On other occasions during the year, such as Harvest, a service is held which involves families making contributions for the community or a local or international charity.

A special 'Leavers Service' is held in Church each summer as together, we send the children onwards to secondary school. This important milestone is also celebrated with parents and friends.

In addition to these occasions, opportunities are actively sought to involve the Church in curriculum studies in school.

Monitoring and Review

In liaison with the Headteacher, it is the role of a named Governor with responsibility for Religious Education and Collective Worship to monitor the policy and practice of Collective Worship. Mrs Mary Whitbread is currently our named Governor.

Mary Whitbread	(Foundation Governor)
Sara Klapkowski	(Coordinator)
Ian Snelling	(Head Teacher)

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