

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

FOR

ST.ANDREW'S C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL/FEERING C OF E PRIMARY
SCHOOL (ASAT)



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Date:

Signed:

Collective Worship Policy Statement

At our All Saints Academy Trust schools, we see Collective Worship (CW) as an important part of our community's day. We think carefully about the planning of CW, ensuring that the themes are linked to either our Church School values, Learning Behaviours, important events in the Christian calendar and other community events e.g. St. Andrew's Day, Anti-Bullying Week, Inter Faith Week, Remembrance, Easter. Our Values for Life and Learning Behaviours are a vehicle for enhancing our Social, Moral, Spiritual and Cultural provision, supporting children in Faith and preparing them for life in modern Britain. We also ensure that we explain new vocabulary and use this as an opportunity to revisit themes.

Introduction

This policy has been prepared by the Trustees, headteacher and with the support of our incumbent. The Diocesan Adviser for Religious Education has also been involved. All teaching staff will have the opportunity to lead CW. Diocesan guidelines for Collective Worship have been referred to.

The Right of Withdrawal

The parents' legal right to withdraw their child from acts of worship is clear. If there are any children whose parents exercise their right to withdraw them from worship, alternative activities will be provided in consultation with the children's parents. This does not mean that the children will be in any way exempt from the Christian ethos of the school, which underpins the whole of school life. Parents are made fully aware of this when they enrol their children.

Aims and Objectives

We always seek to reflect in our worship the Christian foundation of our schools and its care for all who work there. Children are helped to understand the meaning of Christian worship and we hope that believers will be able to share in it and that others of no faith will reach the 'threshold of worship'. This is part of our inclusive school ethos and invites to prayer are carefully worded to ensure all children feel comfortable.

Collective Worship in our Trust schools will do the following:

- Explore the school's vision and how that underpins shared values and virtues. In doing so, it will reflect on moral values such as compassion, gratitude, justice, humility, forgiveness and reconciliation; and develop virtues such as resilience, determination and creativity that develop character and contribute to academic progress.
- Help pupils and adults to appreciate the relevance of faith in today's world by encountering the teachings of Jesus and the Bible and developing understanding of the Christian belief in the trinitarian nature of God.
- Offer the opportunity, without compulsion, to all pupils and adults to grow spiritually through experiences of prayer, stillness, worship and reflection.
- Enable all pupils and adults to appreciate that Christians worship in different ways, for example, using music, silence, story, prayer, reflection, as well as through varied liturgical and other traditions of Anglican worship, festivals and, where appropriate, the Eucharist (Church Services).

- Enable pupils to develop skills through engaging in the planning, leading and evaluation of Collective Worship in ways that lead to improving practice.

We believe Worship is also a vehicle for supporting our school's aims in the vision of Church of England school communities.

Educating for wisdom, knowledge and skills: enabling discipline, confidence and delight in seeking wisdom and knowledge, and developing talents in all areas of life.

Educating for hope and aspiration: enabling healing, repair and renewal, coping wisely when things go wrong, opening horizons and guiding people into ways of fulfilling them.

Educating for community and living well together: a core focus on relationships, participation in communities and the qualities of character that enable people to flourish together.

Educating for dignity and respect: the basic principle of respect for the value and preciousness of each person, treating each person as a unique individual of inherent worth.

Monitoring, Evaluation and Review

Monitoring and evaluation are part of a whole-school cycle of self-review and this will be achieved over time by asking all stakeholders to reflect on school worship. We will, on a termly basis, seek the views of children and from this information, work to ensure we make Worship a thought-provoking, interactive time in their day. This will include the regular updating of the 'Reflections Area', linked to CW themes and promoting engagement.

Monitoring

Monitoring of Collective Worship will be carried out by the headteacher. Useful strategies for the collecting of evidence will include:

- written observations; checking that practice matches planning
- observing children's attentiveness and level of interest
- conducting occasional formal observations of Collective Worship and providing feedback
- seeking feedback from children and visitors
- observing the extent of the Collective Worship's influence on children's attitudes and behaviour throughout the school
- holding discussions with colleagues

Evaluation

The information gathered via one or more of the strategies listed above will be analysed carefully in order to evaluate the quality and effectiveness of the Collective Worship. The co-ordinator, headteacher and foundation Trustee(s), including the incumbent, will be the main evaluators. Formal evaluation of Collective Worship will take place **at least annually**, as detailed in the Trust Improvement Plan.

Review

The headteacher, Trustees and staff will review this policy every three years. A worship planning and record sheet is kept weekly and daily to ensure that acts of worship are generally compatible with the requirements of the policy and to inform our learning and planning for further developments. These will regularly include any formal and informal evaluations of acts of Collective Worship, which will assist monitoring, future planning and delivery. Visitors outside the school community who are regularly involved in acts of worship are provided with a copy of the Collective Worship policy.

Inclusion and Equal Opportunities

A daily act of Collective Worship is held for all children regardless of their background of culture or religion. Every effort is made by the school to involve all children unless withdrawn by their parents in accordance with the law. Please view alongside our equal opportunities policy.

Responsibilities

It is the ultimate responsibility of the headteacher and Trust Board of a school to ensure a daily act of Collective Worship takes place. The responsibility to co-ordinate the acts of worship is that of the headteacher. She plans themes, invites and liaises with visiting speakers and keeps a record of the content of each act of Collective Worship. Monitoring and evaluation is the responsibility of the Trust Board with the support of our Diocesan Advisor and incumbent, who views weekly planning.

Resources

The Trust uses both published and online resources, as advised on both the Church of England and Diocesan websites.

Conclusion

At All Saints Academy Trust, Collective Worship is highly valued and every effort is made to ensure that all children and staff take an active part in a high-quality daily act of Collective Worship. Worship may contain many elements but at our schools, we seek to specifically ensure that the act of Collective Worship is a learning experience as well as a spiritual encounter.