

# ANDOVER CE PRIMARY SCHOOL



## Policy for Collective Worship

Date Agreed:	October 2025	
Review Date:	October 2026	
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	Headteacher	Chair of Governors

## Introduction

This policy is an agreed statement of the values and aims of collective worship at Andover Church of England Primary School.

**References to 'parish' refer to the local parish church which the school is linked to. This is the parish named in the Instrument of Government for the school (IoG). The vicar will be the 'principal officiating minister' of the named parish.**

"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, to devote the will to the purpose of God." William Temple, Archbishop of Canterbury 1942-44.

## Worship in our school should:

As worship:

- Should at its simplest create a time and space where we can come closer to God and God can come closer to us
- Be distinctively Christian
- Use and promote the clearly identified core Christian values of the school
- Have **Integrity** as acts of Anglican worship whilst being **Invitational, Inclusive** and **Inspirational**
- Be based on Biblical text or themes
- Enable participants to develop an understanding of Jesus Christ and a Christian understanding of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit
- Be central in importance to the life of our school community, which is part of a wider community that embraces the whole world
- Reflect on human existence
- Use the seasons and festivals of the Christian year
- Develop understanding of Anglican traditions and the practice of the local parish church

For people:

- Develop personal spirituality within the school community through a range of experiences including individual and collective prayer
- Engage pupils and adults with collective worship, making it relevant and transformational to the lives of members of the whole school community
- Celebrate the God given gifts and talents of individuals and the whole school community
- Make a significant contribution to the overall spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of members of the school community

- Consider the beliefs and values of others, especially those within the school community
- Raise aspirations of individuals and the school community

To comply:

- Reflect the trust deed
- Be clearly outlined in the school prospectus and documentation
- Involve learners and adults in planning, leading and evaluating collective worship
- Be monitored and evaluated for the impact it has on the school community by foundation governors

## **Aims**

- To promote the joy of worship as engaging, inspiring and transformative.
- To develop spirituality, morality, social and cultural values.
- Sometimes to provide a peaceful environment enabling stillness, reflection and prayer.
- Sometimes to be noisy and joyous with singing, music, dance, drama, gymnastics etc.
- To give an opportunity to acquire a secure knowledge of the Christian faith as revealed in the Bible.
- To understand, celebrate and develop children's knowledge of Christian beliefs, celebrations, traditions and religious festivals in the Anglican Church's year.
- To appreciate that people, cultures and beliefs differ and to demonstrate respect, tolerance and generosity towards them.
- To develop pupils' sense of self-worth and to provide opportunities to celebrate achievements.
- To develop a caring attitude to others and a sense of community and loyalty.
- To provide opportunities for children to plan, lead, contribute to, monitor and evaluate collective worship.
- To invite clergy of the parish, other lay members of the parish and other Christian leaders in the community [as are acceptable to the parish church] to lead worship weekly.

## **How we achieve our aims**

We aim to promote collective acts of worship, which are rich, meaningful experiences that are appropriate and significant to the pupil's needs, age, development and interest by:

- Creating a sense of occasion and reverence following the 4 central attributes of worship.
- Arranging worship at different places when possible, different times with different people and groupings, involving all members of the school community at some time.
- Planning and linking themes which focus on a particular idea/concept, i.e. the liturgical year; School Values, festivals and celebrations, within Christian and other

faith traditions, our Christian values – celebrating achievements, good work and behaviour.

- Using a wide range of resources, devotional aids, artefacts (from religious and secular sources), music, art, drama and external speakers to engage children's interest.
- Encourage children to participate and experience different styles of worship, e.g. prayer, praise, silence, rituals, and become familiar with the language of worship, Biblical readings and liturgy.
- Providing opportunities for pupils to reflect, contemplate on their own thoughts, feelings and beliefs.
- Using the centrality of prayer – personal silent prayer, personal shared prayers, collective prayers, writing prayers.
- Providing opportunities that develop pupil's awareness of what is beautiful, good, wonderful, awesome and puzzling in life experience.
- Involving pupils and members of the wider community to participate in collective worship and activities within the parish.
- Presenting and creating displays that promote and enhance spiritual ideas, thoughts and questions.

### **Central attributes of an act of worship**

The School will endeavour to fulfil the legal requirements of 1988 Education Reform Act in conjunction with School's trust deed, by holding 'an act of collective worship every day'.

During collective worship, whether in the hall, classroom or outside, we will apply the following 'central attributes' of worship:

**Gathering** Making special and significant this part of the day through appropriate symbol and ceremony

**Engaging** Using the best available techniques to stimulate interest in the content

**Responding** Ensuring there is time and opportunity for individual, group reflection and thought, so those attending can respond in a variety of ways and in addition

**Sending** Summarising the worship in a meaningful short message used to create an opportunity for those attending to implement the ideas covered and to conclude the worship

### **School specific organisation**

**Monday** Whole school Worship led by a member of the Senior Leadership Team

**Tuesday** Songs of Praise – Sung Worship led by a class teacher

**Wednesday** Whole School Worship led by a member of St Mary's Church Team

**Thursday** Phase Worship or class worship led by a class or class teacher

**Friday** Whole school celebration led by a member of the Senior Leadership Team

*The School may vary the organisation Whole School / Class / Key Stage each year or term.*

*Collective worship should be planned systematically, so that there is continuity, variety and clear focus on Christian beliefs and festivals. Worship is led by a variety of people that include School staff, pupils, Governors, representatives from the parish church, members of different faith communities and members of the local community.*

### **The centrality of prayer**

- During the collective worship there will be a time for response and reflection, to ponder on a question, statement or thought. This may also be reflected in a prayer, offered spontaneously by a pupil or adult, read out or recited. This prayer can be displayed and used in class and school reflective areas, the Entrance Foyer, the Olive Grove so that:
- Children understand the nature and purpose of prayer.
- Children understand the part prayer may play in their lives and the life of the school community.
- Prayer contributes to the spiritual development of individuals and the whole school community.

There will also be appropriate opportunities for prayer and other worship activities, including reflection, outside of collective worship.

Each class has a 'reflective area' to engage and promote individual pupils and adults, as well as designated special spaces around the school.

### **Management and organisation of resources**

The Senior Leadership Team plans worship on a termly basis, with input from pupils, teachers, members of the parish church and reflections / feedback from pupils, staff, governors and parents.

Resources and artefacts are available from the staff room.

All classes have access to prayer books and Bibles.

A board is displayed in the school Entrance Foyer, highlighting the focus and theme of collective acts of worship, music and prayer. The School's reception area displays the school's distinctive ethos and Christian values.

### **Parental involvement**

Parents are actively encouraged to participate in a number of collective acts of worship, church services and celebration worships.

## **Legal status of collective worship**

All maintained schools in England must provide a daily act of collective worship.

In a Church of England School, worship must be in line with the trust deed of the school and will reflect the traditions of the Church of England, i.e. the Anglican tradition.

## **Right to withdraw**

Parents have the right to withdraw their child from the daily act of collective worship. Our school complies with this wish and ensures a duty of care for pupils who are withdrawn from collective worship.

Our school will respect parental request and will try to discuss the request to see if an accommodation can be reached and to ensure worship remains inclusive and invitational and open to all members of the school community.

## **Responsibilities**

The normal expectation within our church school is for all staff to view daily collective worship as an important part of their own well-being and spiritual development as human beings. The school timetables staff to attend at least the opening and closing collective worship of the week.

At interview all applicants are informed that the school holds daily acts of collective worship that promote the Christian ethos and values of the school.

The normal expectation will be that teaching staff, including student teachers, will participate in collective worship. The school welcomes offers from any member of staff who feels confident to lead worship.

The Headteacher is responsible for co-ordinating the programme of induction and training for staff.

The person responsible for collective worship is the Headteacher.

## **Monitoring and evaluation**

Monitoring and evaluation of collective acts of worship, is undertaken by pupils, staff, and governors on a termly basis.

All who deliver worship will be observed on a termly basis. This process supports the school's self-evaluation, is a specific responsibility of the foundation governors and is reported to the whole governing body.

Pupils are also involved in evaluating collective worship through feedback in weekly class worship, questionnaires and pupil conferences.

All leaders of collective worship are asked to evaluate continuously, reflect after every worship, to develop and improve their practice.

### **Review**

This policy should be reviewed annually, or earlier if changes are made to the SIAMS Evaluation Schedule.