



## **Introduction**

This policy is an agreed statement of the values and aims of collective worship at Andrews' Endowed Church of England School.

*"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*

## **Our School Values: Love, Respect, Courage**

**Love is a core value of our school** because Love is at the centre of God's message: the Bible tells us that God, the Father, is Love. Love is the greatest commandment we are given.

*"Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your mind. Love your neighbour as yourself."* (Matthew 22:34-40)

God's love calls us to serve others freely without expectation of reward – even people we don't like or who don't like us – because they are made in the image of God. Jesus lives this out in the way He treats everyone as an equal, demonstrating this by washing the feet of his disciples, and showing compassion for those who others had rejected.

We show our Love when we look after those within our school and wider community, serving them and putting their needs before our own.

**Respect is a core value of our school** because it ensures we value each other's differences and show tolerance. Respect (or reverence) stems from our awareness of the Holy Spirit's presence within the created world and within our relationships with other people.

St Paul tells us that we must

*"Encourage one another and build each other up."* (1 Thessalonians 5:11)

We respect:

- Ourselves
- Each other, and
- Our world
- 

In Matthew's gospel, Jesus says

*"Treat others as you would want to be treated."* (Matthew 7:12)

We show Respect in the way we treat each other, value each other's differences, and care for creation.

**Courage is a core value of our school** because it encourages us to stand up for what we believe is right. It is about a life-long process of challenging ourselves to be the best that we can be, however hard this might be.

In the book of Joshua, God tells his people to

*"Be strong and courageous, do not be frightened, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."* (Joshua 1:9)

Jesus told his followers that

*"If anyone wants to be my disciple, they must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me."*  
(Matthew 16:24)

We show Courage when we make a stand against injustice, when we say 'no' when we believe something is wrong, when we are able to stick to a task even when it is difficult, and when we stand up for our beliefs.



### **How collective worship is organised at our school:**

As a Church School we celebrate a collective act of worship every day. When worship takes place in the hall, we have a small worship table with a cross on it. Music is used at the start, enabling children to move calmly into the hall and giving them time for personal reflection before we begin. Our collective worship begins with a Christian greeting, after which we light a candle. We often sing a hymn or song together. We always end with a prayer. Often, we invite a child to come and lead a prayer, linked to the theme we have been discussing. Children are invited to make the prayer their own by joining in with the end refrain 'Amen' if they choose to do so. Music is used at the end of the Collective Worship, as the children move back to their classes.

During the course of the week, there are usually some opportunities for collective worship to take place in classes, and in Key Stages, as well as coming together as a whole school. This enables us to tailor our materials and approach to suit the differing ages and aptitudes of our children.

There is a programme of themes drawn up annually which is circulated to all those who lead worship. The themes provide a structure to the year, addressing major Christian festivals and exploring aspects of the Anglican faith. The themes also provide children with access to information about other World Faiths and enable them to be aware of events happening in our country and in the wider world.

We are fortunate to be well supported by both clergy and lay people from the Parish of the Resurrection. This enables the children to experience worship led by a variety of visitors from our local churches on a regular basis; younger and older, men and women, individuals and groups. This provides our children with a rich variety of experiences, and makes strong and relevant links to our local churches.

### **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
- Offer opportunities to develop, interpret and experience the Christian values and ethos of the school

For our community:

- 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

## **Our programme of collective worship is open to all and aims:**

- To promote the joy of worship as engaging, inspiring and transformative.
- To provide opportunities 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 be inclusive and welcoming, accessible to those with faith and those with no faith, respecting the individual and family values of every child in our community
- To develop pupils' sense of self-worth and to provide opportunities to celebrate achievements and raise aspirations.
- 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.
- To enable children to think deeply, to ask or attempt to answer searching questions, and to share ideas confidently within a community which respects each individual's views and contributions

## **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; RE curriculum, festivals and celebrations, within Christian and other faith traditions, our Christian values and the SEAL programme (Social Emotional Aspects of Learning) – 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,
- 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 HT
- Tuesday** Whole school Celebration worship led by HT or SLT
- Wednesday** Key Stage worship led by HT or Key Stage Leaders
- Thursday** Whole school worship led by the parish
- Friday** Whole school Singing worship led by HT or Class worship led by staff

*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. Prayers can be displayed and used in class and school reflective areas 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.

### ***Our School Prayer***

*This is our school,  
Let peace dwell here,  
Let joy surround us,  
Let love abide here,  
Love of one another,  
Love of mankind,  
Love of life itself,  
And love of God.  
Let us remember  
That, as many hands build a house,  
So, many hearts make a school.*



## **Management and organisation of resources**

The Headteacher 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 Head's Office and RE Resource Areas

All classes have access to prayer books and Bibles, as well as the class set of Bibles in the library.

A board is displayed in the Staff Room, highlighting the focus and theme of collective acts of worship, music and prayer.

The School's reception area displays reflect current ideas and themes, as well as the school's distinctive ethos and Christian values.

## **Communication**

The weekly school newsletter contains the weekly theme so parents are always informed about the worship taking place in school.

Some parents will value this personally and may discuss and reflect on the worship at home with their child.

Whenever one of the school's Christian values is explored in depth, or when there is something special to share, additional information will be provided in the newsletter.

Information about school worship is also provided to the local parish church so parishioners can be informed about the worship in school.

## **Parental involvement**

Parents are actively encouraged to participate in collective acts of worship, church services and singing workshops.

## **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. Schools must comply with this wish and must ensure a duty of care for pupils who are withdrawn from collective worship.

The school will respect parental requests and will seek 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**

All staff are invited to attend daily collective worship if they so wish, as an important part of their own well being and spiritual development as human beings. The school will endeavour to timetable staff so all have an opportunity to attend regularly.

At interview all applicants are invited to confirm that they are comfortable with and supportive of the inclusive ethos of our Church of England school and willing to respect and work in sympathy with the Christian ethos and values of the school.

The school welcomes offers from any member of staff who wishes to lead worship, and provides training for those volunteering to lead. 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**

In keeping with our policy schedule, this policy will be reviewed every three years, or earlier if changes are made to the SIAMS Evaluation Schedule.

***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.***