



## St. Augustine`s CofE (VA) Junior School



### Collective Worship Policy

#### Collective Worship

*A daily act of collective worship must be provided for all registered pupils in all maintained schools. The Trust Deed and the school ethos statement inform the policy and practice of collective worship in our school – all acts of worship should be Christian.*

At St. Augustine's Junior School our daily acts of collective worship are usually based on the teachings and traditions of the Christian Church. They are led in a manner sensitive to the individual faiths and beliefs of all members of the school. The acts of collective worship are not distinctive of any particular Christian denomination, although, as a Church of England Voluntary Aided School, it is appropriate that we reflect the Anglican tradition both in school and in church. We are passionate about learning and work closely with parents to ensure that all our children fulfil their potential. We aim to educate the whole child, to encourage enquiring minds, to foster social skills and an understanding of others people needs. At St Augustine's we believe each child is unique, created in the image of God, and should be given every opportunity to flourish as they move through the school. It is our belief that the children should be educated in an environment that reflects the gospel principles of love, forgiveness and peace and that Collective Worship should be of a Christian nature. Collective Worship contributes to our Mission Statement and the aims and Christian ethos of the school. It also celebrates and explores the values of our school. Jesus said," Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind. And, 'Love your neighbour as yourself.'" In our school community, we aim to live by this, by welcoming children and their families from all cultures and faiths.

The aim of collective worship is to provide an opportunity for children to:

- Contribute to the Mission Statement and aims of the school
- Promote our 10 Core Christian Values.
- Create an environment in which children and adults have the opportunity to worship
- Worship God taking time for reflection.
- Develop knowledge and understanding of the Christian faith
- Consider spiritual and moral issues.
- Explore their own beliefs.
- Promote understanding, respect and tolerance of other faiths, particularly those within our school community, by learning from each other.

To encourage the children to:

- Promote a common ethos with shared values.
- Learn how to worship.
- Actively participate and respond, by listening to and joining in with the worship offered.
- Develop a sense of community spirit.
- Reinforce positive attitudes.
- To learn the Christian values and apply them in their lives in various ways

We meet our aims by:

- Using a variety of approaches with an emphasis on reflection and an opportunity for teaching, prayer, praise and worship through singing, dance and times of quietness.
- Placing Christian values at the heart of our ethos and teaching.

- Encouraging the pupils to enter the hall quietly, engendering an aura of security, calm and respect.
- Creating a sense of a special time by playing appropriate music, lighting candles and, sometimes, using appropriate images/symbols to act as a visual focus.
- Using ICT to pose questions for thought and reflection.
- Creating opportunities for children to share in and reflect on life experiences.
- Helping our children to explore their own beliefs and the beliefs of others.
- Giving the pupils opportunities for prayer and reflection.

### **Organisation**

The major festivals of Easter and Christmas are celebrated and due attention is paid to the seasons of Lent and Advent together with other events in church life such as harvest thanksgiving. A group of children present work and prayers annually on Education Sunday. Our school has a close connection with St Augustine's church and children visit the church regularly to use as a learning resource and place of worship. The themes of worship for the year are planned out before hand and include all significant Christian events, the termly SEAL focus and other major events (eg, Anti-bullying week, Road safety wk). Collective worship forms a major part of our daily routine. Worship takes place at the end of each day starting at 2.35 pm and lasts for 15/20 minutes. We feel that coming together as one at the end of the day is very important and positively impacts on our Christian ethos. All staff are encouraged to attend, (unless exercising the right to withdrawal). Collective worship generally follows the pattern below:

1. Worship begins by saying the school prayer (Still, still, Jesus is here. Jesus we come to you. To show our love for you. Now we are close to you, Jesus is here) and the lighting of a candle (to represent that Jesus is the light of the world and is always with us guiding and supporting).
2. Worship always ends with all the children saying the Lords Prayer (the Common Worship version). Where appropriate the children will also read prayers, some written by themselves. Both during and after this we have times of silence and reflection.

Then within our acts of worship we use a variety of approaches including different components. These may include:

- Sharing a variety of readings, using the Bible (particularly the Good News Bible) as a reference point where appropriate.
- Reading, telling or dramatising stories (including those from around the world and other cultures).
- Saying/reading prayers including those written by members of the school community.
- Visitor led, Reverend William Gammon, Governors, etc.

Monday is a time when the whole school community meets to celebrate and share class awards and successes giving thanks to God for the skills and talents he has given us. All staff is encouraged to join in with this weekly celebration.

Tuesday is a time when the whole school community meets, (even those on duty). We have 'Class Worship' which parents and governors regularly attend. This gives us the opportunity to celebrate our values and learning with parents and carers. At least one class led worship will be held in the church to maintain the partnership we have with our church.

Wednesday is led by a teacher on a rota basis.

Thursday is a time of class worship. Each class teacher will provide a flipchart or power point relating to the class Christian value. Each week, children will discuss class values

(such as Peace) and how it relates to them, the school, the community as well as the world and the teachings of Jesus.

Friday is worship through singing. Singing a range of traditional and modern songs and hymns that as much as possible mirror the theme of the day/week. (We are constantly increasing our repertoire of worship songs through regular singing sessions.)

### **Church Links**

This includes half-termly incumbent led worship by Reverend Bill Gammon from St. Augustine's Anglican Church. Reverend William Gammon also starts the school year by introducing the Year 3 children to the church, explaining the different parts and their uses. Over the course of the school year he also works with every class at least once with a focus on the class value.

It is important to us that we develop our children's spiritual awareness and understanding in addition to their moral, social and cultural awareness. We celebrate the created world in which we live and consider our impact on it and our responsibility for it. Celebrating children's individual, team or group achievements also important to us and we sometimes incorporate this into our worship.

### **Monitoring Worship**

It is the responsibility of the RE subject leader to ensure all worship themes, prayers, songs reflections and impact are recorded. At least once a year the school's provision of worship will be evaluated to consider whether it meets the needs of all pupils and whether pupils are making progress in acquiring skills and abilities in organising and leading worship. This will be facilitated through:

- written observations; checking that practice matches planning
- observing children's attentiveness and level of interest
- conducting observations of collective worship and providing feedback
- seeking and recording feedback from children, staff, parents, governors, incumbent and visitors
- observing the influence of collective worship on children's attitudes and behaviour throughout the school
- holding regular discussions with colleagues
- children to reflect weekly (in class worship) about the week's assembly (one class per week)
- children's reflections to be collected by RE subject leader as evidence of impact.

### **Governors responsibility relating to worship**

The Foundation governor's in a Voluntary Aided school provide the visible link between the school, local community and church and they have a duty to ensure that the character of the school reflects its Christian foundation and provides Religious Education in accordance with the Trust Deed. They assist in the decisions over the arrangements for Collective Worship in consultation with the Headteacher. As well as supporting the school by assisting in the monitoring and evaluating of Collective Worship process.

### **Right of Withdrawal**

Parents have the right to request that their children are withdrawn from all or any part of Collective Worship. This right is rarely exercised and for this reason it is expected that, if such a request is being considered, the parents will make an appointment to discuss their concerns with the Headteacher, before making a final decision which should be notified to the school in writing.

Any child who is withdrawn from Collective Worship should still be supervised and provision should be made for him/her (on the blue chairs by the office) to work. Parents of children withdrawn from Collective Worship are expected to provide suitable material

relating to their own beliefs/focus for reflection for their child to study. Where this does not happen the child(ren) will be expected to continue with an aspect of their learning provided by the classteacher.

The Headteacher and members of the school's teaching staff also have the right to withdraw from leading Collective Worship. In this case the governors of the school are responsible for the provision of the daily acts of Collective Worship.

## **Resources**

Web based resources:

- [www.ely.anglican.org/education/schools/collective\\_worship](http://www.ely.anglican.org/education/schools/collective_worship)
- [www.assemblies.org.uk](http://www.assemblies.org.uk)
- [www.churchschoolseast.org.uk](http://www.churchschoolseast.org.uk)

There is an annual budget allocation for RE & Collective worship, resources for Collective Worship include:

- Books & possible worship ideas/scripts (located in the staffroom).
- Online resources video clips and stories.
- Cross and candles (currently located in the hall on the piano).
- Pictures (shared with Religious Education and located in stock cupboard).
- Music CDs and music for worship songs (located in main hall)
- Songs/lyrics on shared area.
- High quality posters from Christian Poster Organisation.

Date ratified by Governing Body: 18/03/15

Signed:  Chair of Governors.

Signed:  Headteacher.

Date of review: Spring term 2017



**Our Vision:** To fulfil potential in a caring Christian environment by; sharing the joys of learning, discovering talents and celebrating success.