



Policy owned: by SIMCE
Policy reviewed: Autumn 2026
Policy to be reviewed: Autumn 2028

'Learn to love and love to learn; in God's love each one will shine'

St. Andrew's Church of England (VC) Primary School

Collective Worship Policy

Rationale:

Our School Vision is led by the example of St Andrew;

Love to learn

Just as Jesus immediately saw the character and depth of Andrew at that first meeting on the shores of the Sea of Galilee calling him to be his disciple, so we see and encourage the strengths and interests of all our children. We help them become lifelong learners, encouraging and developing their sense of enquiry and aspiration.

Learn to Love

As Jesus showed Andrew how to be the very best of men, so we guide and support our children to become the best that they can be. We teach our children to care and have respect for themselves and others, physically, morally and culturally. Our curriculum is built around the fish symbol to show that the love of God and Jesus is at the very heart of all that we do.

In God's love each one will shine

Following Jesus' command; *"Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will send you out to fish for people."* (**Matthew 4: 19**) St Andrew brought people to meet, to love and to learn from Jesus. In a similar way we help our children to follow Christian values, to receive the love of God, and to shine that love to others in His grace.

Scope and Objectives

Our vision is realised through this policy by the commitment of our school to serve its community by providing an education of the highest quality within the context of Christian belief and practice.

The ethos of our school from our Instrument of Government states;

"Recognising its historic foundation, the school will preserve and develop its religious character in accordance with the principles of the church of England and in partnership with the Church at parish and diocesan level. The school aims to serve its community by providing an education of the highest quality within the context of Christian belief and practice. It encourages an understanding of the meaning and significance of faith, and promotes Christian values through the experience it offers to all its pupils."

The importance and centrality of worship contribute powerfully to the spiritual development of all our pupils. The school encourages an understanding of the meaning and significance of faith and promotes Christian values through the experience it offers to all its pupils.

Legal Requirements for Collective Worship in Voluntary Schools (From Hertfordshire SACRE: Collective Worship Guidance: Jan 2020)

1. DFES Circular 1/94 contains the current requirement for a daily act of collective worship, the majority of which should be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character that is "reflecting" the "broad traditions of Christian belief" without being denominationally biased (cf Education Reform Act 1988). However, headteachers must take into account the pupils' ages, aptitudes and family backgrounds.
2. This must be provided for all registered pupils of compulsory school age or above. The term 'registered pupils' includes those in the sixth form but not pupils in nursery schools or classes.
3. The act of collective worship can take place at any time during the school day and with any grouping of pupils the school wishes to use (though not faith groupings).
4. Parents in all schools have a legal right to withdraw their children wholly or partly from collective worship.
5. The Education and Inspection Act 2006 makes provision for pupils in post-16 education to exercise the right to withdraw themselves from the daily act of collective worship.

6. Teachers, including headteachers, have a contractual duty to attend assembly but they have the right to withdraw from collective worship and cannot be discriminated against for doing so.
7. If a school believes that the Christian character clause is inappropriate for the whole school or certain pupils within it, application can be made to the Hertfordshire Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) for a determination order to have the clause lifted or modified.
8. In a Voluntary school, it is the responsibility of the governors, in consultation with the headteacher to see that these arrangements are carried out.

Aims:

Collective Worship, in St Andrew's, is a daily opportunity for the school community to draw together and have a period of time to reflect, question and share.

As a Church of England school our aims for Collective Worship is that it should be: **"Inclusive, Invitational, and Inspiring"** (Church of England guidance document 2021)

Inclusive:

Our Collective Worship is collective not corporate as we recognise that our school community is a collection of people embracing a great variety of beliefs, faiths and non-faith backgrounds.

We offer the opportunity, through questions, exploration of values and themes, for those who have already developed a growing Christian commitment, a place where their thoughts and emotions can be expressed in communion with God. For others the experience of worship will be tentative and exploratory, whilst those without a religious commitment Collective Worship is offered as a space to appreciate what worship means for others and have a space for personal reflections.

We aim to:

- Help pupils and adults to appreciate the relevance of faith in today's world by encountering the teachings of Jesus and the Bible
- Develop the children's understanding of the Christian belief in the trinitarian nature of God.
- acknowledge and respect difference and diversity, through our half termly values and timetabled special events (eg Black History Month, Friendship week etc)
- acknowledge the things which have meaning, value and purpose for the pupils as individuals, as well as for the school and the wider community.
- foster a sense of community and unity in the school and in the community beyond it and celebrate achievements, special occasions and special events in relation to individual pupils within school, to the school as a whole, or to the wider community and to
- enable the children to bring serious events in their lives e.g. bereavement and moving-on and we celebrate the uniqueness and specialness of each individual.

Invitational:

We aim to:

- offer worship which provides the opportunity to engage whilst allowing the freedom of those of different faiths and those who profess no religious faith to be present and to engage with integrity.
- invite the children and adults to join in with prayers, quiet periods of reflection and stillness and singing so that they may understand the themes and ideas being explored.
- offer opportunities for our children to listen to God and to respond to Him if they wish.
- allow children opportunities to experience and appreciate the use of symbolism and religious language to express feelings and belief.
- develop the children's understanding of the liturgical Christian year and offer opportunities for the children to take part in significant celebrations on the Christian calendar.

Inspiring:

We aim to:

- establish, explore and reinforce our school vision and help our children understand its relevance to the life they lead.
- explore half termly values, linking them to Christian beliefs and make them relatable to the children's own experiences.

- enable our children to develop their skills by providing them opportunities to plan, lead and evaluate collective worship to help constantly improve it. (e.g through the Faith factory)
- provide opportunities for our children to ask and consider “Big Questions” about who we are and why we do what we do.
- encourage respect and care for God’s creation.
- motivate our children into thinking differently and taking actions.
- include all ages and all aptitudes and to make Collective Worship meaningful to all by using singing and instrumental music, visual stimuli such as artefacts, pictures or special objects, stories, drama, mime, dramatic readings and presentation of linked class work.
- provide room for questions and answers – and sometimes the admission that there are no answers.
- Offer space for stillness and reflection
- Offer an opportunity for our children to reach beyond the everyday experiences of life.
- Help develop the inner life of each pupil and a sense of meaning

Collective Worship and the Anglican tradition

In seeking to provide acts of Collective Worship which are both distinctive and inclusive, we:

- Observe the major Christian Festivals and the cycles of the Anglican year: e.g. Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter, Ascension and Pentecost, and some saint’s days (such as St Andrew’s day). There are also special services such as Harvest Festival, Christingle and End of Year.

Services in St Andrew’s Church	Time of year
Welcome Service for New Reception class, supported by Year 6 children.	September – first week of Autumn Term
Harvest Festival	October
Christmas	December – last day before end of Autumn term 2
Easter Service	End of Spring 2 Term
End of year service	Day before end of term

- Use the Bible as a source book for inspiration and learning.
- Reflect upon Christian symbols and their use in worship
- Light a candle to signify the presence of ‘Jesus the light of the world’. The candle colour follows the liturgical seasons and, with the spoken responses, marks the beginning and end of the time of worship.
- Use traditional responses, prayers, and hymns to create a framework for worship within the school, alongside modern Christian songs and prayers. This seeks to link, as far as possible, the pupil’s experience in school and church.
- Provide opportunities for pupils to discover the value of meditation and silence within the context of Christian worship.

Values

Through our acts of worship children should come to a greater understanding of those principles, values and characteristics displayed by Jesus throughout His ministry and teaching and by His own example. Recognised by Christians as integral to their faith, these are nevertheless universally esteemed by people of any faith or none as values by which to live a good life. These Values provide all our children and indeed our whole school community, with a moral code by which to live and a firm foundation and standard against which to evaluate the experiences of life.

These Values include:

Generosity, Compassion, Courage, Forgiveness, Friendship, Respect, Thankfulness, Trust, Perseverance, Justice, Service and Truthfulness, Wisdom, Dignity, Community, Hope, Joy and Peace- Taught using **Roots and Fruits Resources**

Values may also be selected by staff as relevant to the school at the time; by parents supporting their home values; or occasionally by the children in response to particular need. Selecting one for each half term, these Values become the focus and theme for our worship, whether clergy or school led and underpin all relationships (including behaviour management) in school.

Planning Collective Worship

- The selected Values form the focus of each half term. These then form the foundation for the planning of Collective Worship as well as a significant element in PSHE teaching. Roots and Fruits which incorporates aspects of SCARF (Safety, Caring, Achievement, Resilience, Friendship) and other relevant materials are used to support this work.
- Collective Worship is planned on a termly basis by the Headteacher in collaboration with the Clergy Team and others (e.g. the Headteacher from our sister school, St. John's) involved in leading worship on a termly basis.
- The Headteacher will produce a termly Worship Plan including an indication of the subject focus of each Collective Worship experience.
- When appropriate, Collective Worship will engage with any event, local, national or world, of which the children may be aware, and offer appropriate worship in response. There is room for spontaneity.
- The Vicar or a member of the local Clergy Team staff will lead Collective Worship on a regular basis, once a week, on a Thursday. Whilst these Worship times may focus on themes such as prayer, the life of Jesus, and the Church's seasons, they will, at other times, teach a Biblical example of the Value that is currently the focus e.g. The Story of the Good Samaritan may be used to teach Compassion.
- Ministers from other Christian denominations will be encouraged to take Collective Worship as appropriate. From time to time it may be suitable for visitors representing charities, organisations or projects to lead, or contribute to Collective Worship.
- Collective Worship is non-curriculum time and should connect with, and reinforce, the curriculum but not be constrained by it.
- The right atmosphere is crucial to the quality of the worship. We plan the time so that there is variety in method and content, allowing opportunity for quiet and personal reflection and worship.
- Our Faith Team (made up of children from Upper KS2) helps to plan and deliver regular Collective Worship.

Our Collective Worship follows a set pattern:

Monday	A leading Values Assembly - Led by Headteacher
Tuesday	Songs and Worship – a time when we consider carefully the words of the songs or hymns that will be used in Collective Worship for the week and make this into a worshipful experience by reflecting on and responding to those songs.
Wednesday	Values follow up (Led by SLT or Children's Faith Team or class led responses)
Thursday	The Church Team- supported by Faith Team
Friday	Our STAR Celebration Collective Worship – where special work and awards are celebrated. 'St Andrew's STAR' awards are presented nominated by class teachers for children in every class who have demonstrated an improvement in attitude, work or behavior 'Values Champion' award (nominated by the children) for those who have 'lived the value' that week.

The whole school, including parents, other relatives and friends join in Collective Worship times at St Andrew's Church to celebrate the Church's main festivals – see above.

Worship in the Foundation Stage:

Reception children attend Collective worship four times a week once they have settled in the Autumn Term. On the days when they do not attend (Tuesday) they complete an act of worship in their classroom.

The Nursery children come together each day in their own setting, to pray and reflect in an age appropriate way. They are introduced to Bible stories and consider the whole school value.

Reception age children attend most Church services throughout the year, with Nursery children joining when appropriate.

Monitoring and Evaluation

When conducting self-evaluation, the following evidence is collected:

- Documentation e.g. policy, planning records and evaluations.
- Governors may be involved with others in observing of acts of Collective Worship as part of routine monitoring activity. Discussions with Foundation Governors, staff, pupils in the planning and practice of Collective Worship.
- Discussions with representatives of the local church community and where relevant Diocesan representatives.
- Collective Worship resources including budget allocation and expenditure.

- The Collective Worship policy will be reviewed regularly by the Governing Body.

Policy ‘overseen and approved’ by: SMCIE Committee

Reviewed Autumn 2026

To be reviewed: Autumn 2028