



"Show me your way, Lord teach me your paths." Psalms (25.4)

POLICY STATEMENT - COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

At Almondsbury CE Primary School worship is central to the life of school and is the main platform for exploring the school's vision. It is well planned and of high quality so that the whole school community is engaged on a journey of discovery, exploring the teachings of Jesus and the Bible.

For Christians in Church, worship is about honouring God and responding to the loving nature of God as revealed through the Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. A school is not a Church but is a collection of people who come from a variety of backgrounds for the purpose of education. The family backgrounds may be very different, and collective worship must take account of the varied circumstances of staff and pupils.

However, in (insert name of school) the purpose of collective worship will be to lead people to a threshold where they can witness worship and join in, if they wish. It is a place where all can flourish spiritually.

"Worship in (CofE) schools promotes theological and Religious Literacy and liberates participants to an imagining of a different order of justice, mercy and hope"

Through Collective Worship pupils will be offered a space and a place for the telling of the Christian story. They will be offered an understanding of worship through being invited to participate in or observe prayer, reading and reflection on the Bible, liturgy, sacrament and experience of the musical and other imaginative riches of Christianity. Opportunities to reflect on the beauty, joy and pain of the world will be given. Pupils will be given time to consider their responsibilities to others and to grow in love and service. Time will be given for celebration, both for the accomplishments of school members and to mark the seasonal festivals of the Christian calendar. Pupils will be offered time to be able to contemplate and develop spiritually. Collective worship in our school is invitational, inclusive and inspiring

In accordance with legal requirements (School Standards and Framework Act 1988) an act of Collective Worship, taking account of age, aptitudes and background of pupils, is provided daily for all pupils except those withdrawn by parents.

RATIONALE

At Almondsbury we aim to provide collective worship which is consistent with the faith and practice of the Church of England. This is in accordance with the the School Vision Statement, SMSC Policy and Caring Curriculum Policy. Collective Worship is provided daily for all pupils except those withdrawn by parents. There is a legal right of parents to withdraw their children from acts of worship providing they have notified the Headteacher. In such cases children would be supervised elsewhere in the school.

PURPOSES

1. To provide time and opportunity for reflection on personal beliefs and wider issues of life.
2. To provide time and opportunity for thanksgiving and sharing and to celebrate achievement in the school and community.
3. To help children explore feelings and shared human experiences such as joy, sadness, thankfulness and need.
4. To help children recognise and value each individual's worth as well as developing respect for others and their beliefs. Central to this is the development of sensitivity as well as tolerance and understanding towards others.
5. To provide a vehicle to explore the spiritual and moral values of the school community and foster new insights about life and empathy for others.
6. To model a community that celebrates each unique individual member made in the image of God.
7. To help children develop a knowledge and understanding of Christianity, its language and symbolism, its impact on people's lives and its importance on society and cultural heritage.
8. To stimulate children's curiosity through questioning, meaning and to consider religious and non-religious response to these.
9. To help pupils begin the children's journey to understand the nature and purpose of worship and develop a worshipful attitude, characterised by feelings such as awe, wonder, appreciation, respect and reverence.

GUIDELINES:

1. In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act, which states that collective worship should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character', we normally base our Collective Worship on the teachings of Christ and traditions of the Christian Church. However, we conduct our Collective Worship in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs of all members of the school.
2. Collective worship is presented in a variety of ways to create suitable atmospheres for various themes. This should include the incorporation of visitors, stories, music, artefacts, photographs/posters, books and any other appropriate visual aids. It provides opportunity to discover the value of meditation and silence within the context of Christian worship.
3. Collective worship is held both in the school hall, in individual classrooms and at St Mary's Church. Each week worship takes place in the following way:
 - Mondays – Whole School worship led by the Headteacher, Head of School or Visitor from the church and /or community.
 - Tuesdays – Key stage 1 worship led by members of Key stage 1 staff
Class worship for Key stage 2 led by class teachers and pupils in their classrooms
 - Wednesdays – Whole School singing Praise led by the Music leads
Or Whole School Worship led by member of Clergy.

- Thursdays – Key stage 2 worship led by members of Key stage 2 staff
Class worship for Key stage 1 led by class teachers and pupils in their Classrooms.
Or Whole School Worship and Sharing of learning led by a class.
- Fridays – Whole School Celebration Worship led by Head of School

Collective Worship is conducted in a dignified and respectful way.

4. There is a variety of styles and leadership through the week with whole school Collective Worship being led by the Headteacher, Head of School, Pupil Worship Committee, the local vicar and other visitors from the community. The range of visitors recognises the commitment to ecumenism, encompassing gender, race, age and opinion. Key Stage Collective Worship is taken by individual members of staff. Classes have the opportunity to organise and be involved in presenting class Collective Worship. We also attend St Mary's Church at least once per short term for worship as a school, led by the vicar.
5. Collective worship observes the cycle of the Christian Festivals and follows the pattern of the Anglican Year. A Cross and class candles are used for Collective worship. The schools' Christian prayer 'God be in my Head', the Lord's Prayer and liturgy are used regularly.
6. Collective worship follows the 'Values for Life' on a termly basis. 'Values for Life' is written by the diocese. The values include Friendship, Respect, Generosity, Reverence, Honesty, etc. A record is kept in the Collective Worship file on the J drive.
7. Class prayers are said at the end of the morning and afternoon sessions.
8. Each week the whole school celebrates the various achievements of school members when teachers nominate children in their class to receive an achievement certificate. Pictures of the children are displayed on a 'Leader of the Week Board' and shared in the weekly newsletter.
9. The school uses the Church building both for Collective worship at different times of the year and also for Religious Education.
10. The RWE Leader takes on the role of Collective Worship Leader, operating a budget for resources. Staff training takes the form of staff meetings and INSET.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Evaluation and Monitoring of Collective Worship will be carried out in a variety of ways:

1. The RWE leads and Foundation Governors will perform pupil conferences and staff conferences to gather information about collective worship.
2. Children are nominated weekly to receive an 'Above and Beyond' award that demonstrates how the children are showing the Christian values of the school.
3. Discussion at staff meetings, Governor's meetings and consultation with the school's Foundation Governors, including learning walks, class visits and observations.

THE RIGHT TO WITHDRAW

The 1944 and 1988 Education Acts state that parents have the right to withdraw children from collective worship and suitable arrangements should be made to accommodate these children.

In Almondsbury CE Primary School there are significant numbers of children whose families are members of another faith, or who hold a non-religious world view. Part of the distinctively

Christian nature of Church of England Schools is that they should be as hospitable and inclusive to all in the community they serve. As collective worship occupies such a central place in the life of the Church school, this should be made clear on induction, and it is hoped that parents will be making a specific choice of the school knowing that the distinctive ethos will determine a Christian tradition within collective worship.

On occasions, a parent may make a request for their child to be withdrawn from Collective Worship. There is an expectation that parents wishing to request a withdrawal will meet with the headteacher to discuss their concerns and requirements. It may be helpful to establish:

- The elements of worship in which the parent would object to the child taking part
- The practical implications of withdrawal
- Whether the parent will require any advanced notice of such worship, and if so, how much

Where parents have withdrawn their children from collective worship and request religious worship according to their particular faith or denomination, the governors and head teacher will seek to respond positively to such requests providing:

- Such arrangements can be made at no additional cost to the school
- That the alternative provision would be consistent with the overall purposes of the school curriculum as set out in the Education Acts
- If the Parent asks that a pupil should be wholly or partly excused from attending any religious worship at the school, then the school must comply.

(This means that a parent may, for example, request their child does not take part in a carol service when otherwise the child takes part in daily collective worship.)

Reviewed June 2026