



COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

Our Mission

At St. Anne's we aim to be a caring Christian school, within the community where everyone is respected and valued. To be a school where all individuals are encouraged to build on their strengths and aspire to be the best they can be.

Our Vision

Our vision has the promise by Jesus of 'life in all its fullness at its heart. At St Anne's we believe:

- in our children and each other,
- we are uniquely created in the image of God,
- we were made to be awesome,
- that together we are family,
- we were created to live in community,
- in equipping the St Anne's family to be the best we can be,
- in our individual talents and abilities, and
- we can make a difference.

Our Values

At St Anne's CE Primary School, the following core values underpin all that we do. They are reflected in the daily life of the school and our relationships with other:

Respect, Thankfulness, Hope, Forgiveness, Love and Faithfulness.

'...let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your father in heaven.'

Matthew 5:16

'I thank you because I am awesomely made...' *Psalms 139:14*

'...I come that they may have life and have it to the full.' *John 10:10*

The school's motto aims to encompass all of this:

'Be Awesome! Shine Bright!'

St. Anne's is a Voluntary Aided Church of England Primary school whose collective worship is governed in the first instance by Trust Deeds which direct that worship in the school should be conducted according to the principles and practices of the Church of England.

Background

It is the intention of both governors and staff that St. Anne's should continue to reflect the Christian principles that underpinned the school's foundation, to which end the following Mission Statement, ethos and aims have been adopted.

Ethos Statement

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.

Statement of Intent

As a Church school, worship is an affirmation and celebration of our Christian ethos where children have the opportunity to learn, worship and grow in their understanding, worldview and knowledge of themselves. Worship in our school is not simply a statutory duty. It is the heartbeat of our school life – a time to gather together, reaffirm our vision and Christian values and celebrate the central role that each pupil and adult have to play in our community.

Our acts of collective worship reflect the variety of traditions found in the Church of England and recognise and follow the Christian liturgical year. The daily act of worship is central to our ethos and is supported by all staff and governors. It makes an important contribution to the overall spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of the whole school community.

The aims and purpose of collective worship are:

- To provide an invitational opportunity for the children to worship God
- To enable children to consider spiritual and moral issues
- To encourage inclusivity, access, participation and response
- To inspire an exploration of personal beliefs
- To inspire a sense of community spirit
- To promote a common ethos with shared values and to reinforce positive attitudes

The Legal Requirements

We seek to comply with the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 (Section 70 and Schedule 20) which requires that:

- All registered pupils (apart from those whose parents exercise the right to withdrawal) must on each school/academy day take part in an act of collective worship.
- The daily act of collective worship should be conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Trust Deeds of the school/academy and the ethos statement in the Instrument of Government, and should be consistent with the beliefs and practices of the Church of England.
- All acts of collective worship in Church schools/academies must be broadly and mainly, Christian in character. Pupils and adults can be grouped in various ways for worship such as the whole school, year groups, tutor groups, classes, or other combinations.
- Acts of worship must be appropriate for the pupils in that they should take account of the pupils' age, aptitude and family backgrounds.
- The daily act of collective worship will normally take place on the school/academy premises but all schools/academies are able to hold their Act of collective worship elsewhere (e.g. the local Parish Church) on special occasions.
- Responsibility for the arrangement of collective worship in a Church of England school/academy rests with the Local Governing Body in consultation with the Principal/Headteacher.

Principles of collective worship

Each adult and pupil will experience worship that is truly welcoming, inclusive and exemplifying the principles of Christian hospitality.

Collective worship therefore will be:

- Inclusive – Our acts of worship recognise that pupils and adults come from different religious and non-religious perspectives. Though collective worship will remain broadly Christian in nature, it will be fully accessible to all. Care will be taken to ensure that language used by those facilitating worship avoids assuming faith of those participating, listening or watching.

- Invitational – In our acts of worship, there is no compulsion to ‘do anything’ . Rather, worship will provide 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. Pupils and adults will only be invited to pray and sing if they wish to do so.

- Inspiring – By asking and discussing big questions about who we are and what we do, we hope to motivate and inspire pupils and adults into living out our values. There will be opportunities to think, reflect and ponder on their and the wider community’s behaviour and actions.

Implementation

In addition to the above, we seek to provide acts of collective worship that reflect the faith and practice of the Church of England.

Therefore:

We use the Bible for inspiration and learning and make pupils familiar with the Lord’s Prayer, psalms, liturgy and other verses of scripture. We also introduce them to a variety of well- known prayers – many of which express the central beliefs of Christians throughout the ages.

We use aspects of Anglican liturgy to create a framework for worship (articulate here – e.g. gather, engage, respond, send).

We observe the cycle of the Anglican year including celebrations of the major Christian festivals. In St Anne’s we aim to provide a worship space which is attractive and well prepared with appropriate thought having been given to colour, space, seating, ambience and music.

We foster links with St Anne’s involving the member of clergy in leading collective worship and providing coherence between worship in church and school.

We recognise that different members of our school community reflect in different ways. Music, story, silence, prayer, drama and other approaches are incorporated within a varied collective worship offer. Connections with other Christian denominations and faiths.

The Anglican Communion sees itself as part of a global church and promotes ecumenism. At St Anne’s we work to promote links with other local churches and Christian organisations and welcome their clergy and leaders as contributors to acts of collective worship. We recognise that while some of our pupils and families belong to Anglican churches, many worship regularly at churches of other Christian denominations, while others come from different faith backgrounds or none. We endeavour to provide a setting in which the integrity of those present is not compromised, where everyone finds something positive for themselves and there is no pressure to participate or to believe.

Rights and Responsibilities

As established by the 1944 Act and reinforced through this policy, parents have the right to withdraw their children from collective worship. However, having chosen to send their children to St Annes, it is hoped that no one will exercise this right. Should such a situation arise, appropriate arrangements would be made in keeping with the requirements of the Act.

Planning

Planning for collective worship is led by the Headteacher and is undertaken in consultation with the school community.

Plans follow the cycle of the Anglican year, and our school's Christian values. The Headteacher ensures that leaders and visiting speakers receive copies of the long-term plans. Individuals and groups are responsible for using the plans as a basis for developing their own short term plans for individual acts of worship.

Organisation

An act of collective worship is held daily. This may involve the whole school or smaller class or key stage groups. Where collective worship forms part of an assembly, we ensure that there is a clear distinction between the two elements of gathering. Information sharing takes place first and is followed by the time of worship. The headteacher and other members of staff, together with groups of children take turns to conduct collective worship. The local vicar, leads worship at least bi weekly.

We conduct collective worship in a dignified and respectful way expecting all to engage respectfully, even if not actively. We create a suitable atmosphere by using music, pictures or other artefacts to act as a focal point. St Anne's has different people who lead collective worship: headteacher, assistant headteacher, class teachers, member of clergy, local Open the Book Team.

We use Friday Celebration worship as an opportunity to share children's work and to celebrate their successes. These culminate in an act of collective worship and play an important role in promoting the ethos of the school. We invite parents to our Friday assemblies to see their children receive their awards.

Governors are also welcome to attend acts of worship at any time.

Resources

The budget for collective worship is distinct from the budget for Religious Education. There is a wide selection of assembly books and artefacts which we regularly update and improve. We have a collection of CDs which are used to provide suitable music as children enter and leave the hall as well as to accompany singing. Those leading worship also access professional development opportunities.

Contribution to Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development

We recognise that although SMSC development should be fostered across the whole curriculum, acts of collective worship provide a multitude of opportunities in this area. For example, children will be encouraged to reflect on and celebrate the deeper meanings of life, consider their own behaviour and recognise the need for forgiveness, appreciate the contributions of others and respond to their needs, value their own culture and the cultures of others.

Monitoring and Evaluation

We aim to develop the monitoring and evaluation of collective worship by continuing to keep records of collective worship and surveying adults and children as to their views on its effectiveness. We intend to make the criteria for successful worship available to all those who plan and lead it before asking them to submit short term plans. The leader and others will routinely observe and monitor acts of collective worship in line with these criteria.

Inclusion

We are committed to equality of opportunity regardless of race, gender, sexuality, cultural background, ability or any physical or sensory disability. We therefore aim to make collective worship accessible to all and accommodate ourselves to individual needs when appropriate.

Implementation of Policy

The headteacher as collective worship leader is responsible for this policy which will be reviewed every two years. Its implementation is the responsibility of all those planning and leading collective worship.

Review

This policy will be reviewed every two years.