

# St. Andrew the Apostle Catholic Primary School



## Collective Worship Policy



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### Collective Worship Policy

#### General Statement

At St Andrew the Apostle Catholic Primary School we believe our Collective Worship underpins the whole community and is an educational and spiritual activity or experience in which ALL can contribute and from which ALL can give. This enables our children to develop a sense of worth in God's care.

It is an important part of a child's religious experience within our school. It links with our Mission Statement: Succeeding Together in Faith and Love We take into account the religious and educational needs of all who share in it.

#### Why Collective Worship?

To provide opportunities for pupils and staff to come together to worship God.

To provide an enriching and positive religious experience, where children become active participants developing in their faith journey.

To develop a greater sense of who they are within the home, parish and wider community.

To develop a greater sense of awareness that they are made in the image and likeness of God.

To provide opportunities for those children where school may be their first experience of church.

To provide an awareness and respect of other Christian traditions and faith backgrounds.

#### Responsibility of Collective Worship

GOVERNORS have the responsibility of agreeing on a policy statement for Collective Worship after consulting with the Headteacher.

Our HEADTEACHER's role is to ensure that an act of Collective Worship is provided for every child daily. (Noted on class timetables)

TEACHERS plan and enable Collective Worship to take place each day, sometimes acting upon a child's initiation.

PARENTS/carers are invited to participate in Collective Worship (e.g a celebration of our Come and See topics), whole class assemblies, whole school and class masses.

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PUPILS must have the opportunity to take part in daily Collective Worship and an increasing number are initiating their own for their class.

### Collective Worship at St Andrew the Apostle Catholic Primary School

At St Andrew the Apostle our acts of Collective Worship occur on a daily basis for every child within the school in a number of ways.

### Collective Worship in the Classroom

Daily acts which vary in duration and time of day, depending on the ages of the children involved:

Foundation Stage: 3-4 minutes

Key Stage 1: 5-7 minutes

Key Stage 2: 7-11 minutes

They may be teacher-led or generated by class discussion, thoughts, prayers, singing and/or reflection. They may be initiated by individual children too.

- Creating a sense of unity and belonging
- Sharing real-life experiences (eg, weather, natural world)
- Offering a reflective experience where children may contribute

Teachers use the format provided by the Christian Education Department:

GATHER - LISTEN - RESPOND - GO FORTH

### Collective Worship through an Assembly

Whole School Assemblies:

- Teachers lead assembly mostly on a Tuesday, sharing a theme, including children's responses to Scripture, eg the Beatitudes - "How can I show forgiveness this week?"
- We have different formats and different types of assemblies in which Collective Worship is delivered.
- Class-led assemblies which celebrate Come and See (on a rota basis) or special season (Saints' Days, Advent, Ash Wednesday etc)

### Tuesday's Collective Worship (example)

Children come into the hall with their hands joined whilst gentle music plays.

Teacher introduces theme for assembly, then begin with a prayer.

Theme is explored - children's contributions encouraged and valued.

Delivery may be: using Powerpoint or posters, scripture, prayer, etc

Children contribute and share ideas with talking partners

All are given time to reflect and consider Christian values in practice for the following week.

### Class-led assemblies

Using the Come and See topics, each class leads an assembly on a rota basis through the academic year. The R.E. co-ordinator in consultation with the class teacher ensures each class knows which topic/theme they will lead.

The teacher plans with children from work completed during a topic (if relevant from Come and See) so that they are directly involved in their own Collective Worship. The rest of the school is invited to each of these assemblies at a certain time, as parents/ carers are invited too.

Our assemblies:

- Bring us together as a school family
- Develop a sense of purpose, sharing with a wider audience
- Bring Come and See together - other year groups gain a new understanding of the topic
- Celebrate and develop gifts - public speaking, acting, singing
- Welcome family/wider community, helping our commitment to a coherent community

### Collective Worship through Liturgy

Our Parish Priest, Father Matthew Nunes is a regular visitor to school for special Masses/liturgies during the year. On these occasions, school, families and parishioners come together.

The R.E lead usually prepares these celebrations in consultation with the Headteacher, teacher and priest.

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### Examples of liturgies:

Beginning of our school year Y6

St Andrew's Day – Y5

Lenten Masses/Stations of the cross

Reflections during Holy Week

The Feast of St Peter and St Paul

Staff/Governor Mass from the three primary schools that make up the Parish of St John Vianney

Class Masses Y6, Y5 and Y4

Our RE Lead models Collective Worship with our staff through introducing each topic using 'Come and See for Yourself'

### Collective Worship through the Liturgical Year

Easter - celebrated using relevant Come and See topics but supplemented with special class-led assemblies/celebration of topics.

Christmas - Carol Services in school with readings, singing, acting with Nursery, Reception, Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2.

### Classrooms

All classes have Come and See displays and focus tables.

Candles and music enhance the prayerful, reflective nature of Collective Worship.

### Monitoring Collective Worship

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The Headteacher and R.E Lead are responsible for the monitoring of Collective Worship throughout the school. Staff are encouraged to share good practice with colleagues. Oral feedback is given to all teachers for professional development, highlighting strengths and areas to develop.

### Conclusion

Collective worship at St. Andrew the Apostle provides opportunities for pupils, staff and the wider community to come together to worship God. These opportunities are but steps on our journey, so that all involved in our community might come to:

'Have life - life in all its fullness' (John 10:10)

We firmly believe that worship at our school is a central feature in the life of our school.

Through helping our children to celebrate shared values, by fostering a commitment towards God, it is intended that Collective Worship should act as an integrating and enriching element within the whole school community and beyond.