

St Aidan's C of E Primary School

'Small enough to care; big enough to
inspire.'



Collective Worship Policy



Agreed - January 2014

To be reviewed - January 2015

St Aidan's C of E Primary School Collective Worship Policy

Policy Statement

At St. Aidan's CE School, the daily act of collective worship is viewed as an integral and important part of school life. Through this and in the general ethos of the school we seek to promote our mission statement and gospel values.

It is a time where we come together to share our love of God and celebrate our achievements together. The worship of the school is based on promoting the Christian values which permeate the ethos of the school. As such, the contributions of staff, pupils, church clergy and other visitors are valued highly.

We also actively seek to encourage the attitudes of awe, wonder and reflection.

Values Education

We blend Christian teaching and Values Education in order to create opportunities for children to develop physically, emotionally, personally, socially, mentally and intelligently so that their self esteem and well-being is sound and supported by ever growing emotional intelligence; leading to an understanding of their rights and responsibilities as young citizens. (See Appendix 1 - Our Values)

Legal Requirements

We acknowledge the legal requirement stated in the 1988 Education Reform Act 6 (1) and 9 (3), which states the need for each child to attend a daily act of worship either as a whole school, class or group. Parents have the legal right to withdraw their children from the act of worship either partially or wholly. Any parents wishing to do so should contact the Headteacher.

Organisation

We aim to provide a variety of worship experiences for the children. Our current schedule is as follows:

Monday : Whole school worship led by the Deputy Headteacher,

Tuesday: Whole School Worship led by a member of the SLT.

Wednesday: Whole school hymn practice, with prayer/reflection time, led by the **Music team** and a teaching member of staff on a rota basis.

Thursday: Whole school worship lead by member of the SLT

Friday: Most Fridays we have whole school worship led by the Headteacher. This is a celebration of talents assembly. Relatives and friends are invited to join us and share in the celebrations.

In addition to this, visiting groups and individuals are welcomed into the school regularly to lead worship. The assembly/worship should last approximately 20 minutes.

Planning, Content and Detail

The themes for the week's collective worship reflect our Values and the Church calendar, our school ethos and current events. **(See Appendix 2)** The Worship begins with the children entering the hall accompanied by a piece of music. This piece of music has been carefully chosen to allow the children to enter the hall (place of worship) peacefully and ready to conduct themselves appropriately for Worship. The candles on the altar table are lit and the worship begins with the children singing a hymn. The children are involved in the worship throughout and this finishes with a prayer. The candles are then blown out before any messages are given.

This allows for us to make a clear distinction between worship and assembly. The children then lead out as more reflective music is played.

Wednesday's hymn practice/singing includes the lighting of candles to focus the children's attention and aims to develop the children's understanding of new hymns as well as learning them. The session ends with a time for reflection or a prayer before the candles are blown out and messages are given. The children leave in the same way as before.

Friday's Worship is led by the Headteacher and is a celebration of the week. A piece of music and candles may be lit if felt appropriate. This time together is always finished with a prayer before the children go back to their classes. It is in this assembly that certificates and awards are presented.

Collective worship always includes a time of prayer and/or reflection, including hymn practice. A range of prayers are used including the Lord's Prayer. They are introduced in an appropriate manner with a short time of quiet reflection.

At the beginning of the lunch hour, grace is said by either an adult or child in each class. On a Friday an end of week prayer will be led by the teacher in each class at home time.

Other Faiths

Although our worship reflects our Christian beliefs and values, we are committed to respecting each other's faith stance and culture, showing tolerance and understanding regardless of pupils' beliefs. The class-led acts of worship may portray other cultures and beliefs as they reflect the RE studied as part of the curriculum requirements.

Record Keeping, Evaluation and Monitoring

A record of assemblies are kept in a file in the office. The link governor (Mr H Wareing) attends some assemblies and completes an evaluation. The collective worship cycle is reviewed on a yearly basis and shared with Reverend Overend.

Visits and visitors

As part of the curriculum, St Aidan's School ensures that appropriate visits are made available for the children in order for them to have first-hand experiences and gain a greater understanding of various places of worship. Visitors to the school are welcomed and enabled to share their experiences and knowledge - their role is to educate, not to evangelise. St Aidan's Church is our most valuable and frequently used resource, with the whole school attending and contributing towards annual Harvest, Christmas, Easter and Leavers' Services

All Year 6 children have the opportunity to attend Confirmation classes in school. These are led by Reverend Overend and other members of the church community. Year 6 also attend Liverpool Cathedral for a Leaver's Service in June and also attend Eucharist Services at St Aidan's Church, throughout the year.

Parents/Governors/Diocesan Liaison and Local Community Issues

Children may be withdrawn from R.E. lessons at the wish of their parents. The Headteacher will ensure that suitable provision is made for such pupils.

The role of link governor for R.E. has been created on the governing body. The R.E. coordinator and link governor liaise to discuss various aspects of R.E. and this ensures an effective line of communication between the coordinator and the governing body. The link governor (Mr H Wareing) attends some assemblies and completes an evaluation.

The Governing Body and Headteacher take overall responsibility for collective worship.

Equal Opportunities and special needs issues

All pupils, regardless of academic ability, age, gender and ethnic origin will have access to a wide range of appropriate activities to support their understanding of R.E. At each Key Stage, the teacher will draw from other religions as appropriate to acknowledge and celebrate the religious beliefs of the children within the class.