



ST ALPHEGE CE INFANT SCHOOL



Collective Worship Policy

Date of last review/update: September 2023

Staff Responsible: Jacqui Spinks - Head of School and Catherine Jones
– RE and Collective Worship Leader

Loved, Inspired, Shining

Our vision is for:

- Each person to know they are loved as they are by God, flourishing and reaching their potential.
- All our families to live life in all its fullness, inspired to learn through a creative curriculum.
- Our school to “Shine like a star”, bringing hope and courage to our community.

Importance statement:

St Alphege CE Infant School is a Controlled Church of England school and so our daily act of Collective Worship plays a central role in our life and work. It provides us with valuable opportunities to reaffirm our Christian values and ethos. It offers important opportunities to strengthen our sense of community, belonging and inclusiveness and to reinforce the respect and care we have for each other. Through collective worship we make a significant contribution to the religious, spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of those present. We recognise the importance of providing opportunities for reflection and spiritual development.

Aims:

- to provide pupils with a range of opportunities to worship
- to explore a relationship with God through the stories of the Bible
- to give pupils opportunities to reflect on the significance of Christian stories, events and festivals and how these might effect their lives;
- to offer experiences and opportunities for pupils to join in with and respond to a variety of forms of collective worship in order for them to reflect on the significance of their own and other’s Christian beliefs;
- to reflect some of the traditions and practices of the local church as well as celebrate special occasions in the churches year and life of the local community.
- to help children explore their spirituality and beliefs.
- to promote our shared values and contribute to our common life together by celebrating individual achievement, school achievement and wider community achievement within the context of collective worship. These aims mean that our collective worship programme is such that we can include all our school community.

Collective worship and the law:

We comply with legal requirements by providing a daily act of collective worship for all pupils on the school roll, unless they have been withdrawn by their parent(s) ‘on grounds of conscience’. Teachers also have the right not to attend or lead an act of collective worship ‘on grounds of conscience’. Our acts of collective worship are distinctively Christian character and reflect our Anglican character.

Collective worship and parents:

We emphasise the importance of our collective worship programme in developing our school’s Christian ethos and values and in providing a range of opportunities for children to

consider important issues for life and living. Parents do however have the right to withdraw their child(ren) from the daily act of collective worship. This is made clear through the information contained in our prospectus. Parents who wish to consider withdrawing their child(ren) are asked to make an appointment with the Head of School (and the collective worship leader). If a child is withdrawn from collective worship they are supervised by an adult outside of the hall/room and are reintegrated for any notices or presentations.

Collective worship and staff:

All staff attend collective worship with their class. If an individual member of staff feels their own beliefs might be compromised by our programme of collective worship they can discuss this with the Head of School (and collective worship leader), since they do have the legal right not to attend collective worship 'on grounds of conscience'. It is made clear at appointment that staff have a responsibility to uphold the Christian ethos and values of the school. The Head of School has a statutory accountability to ensure acts of Worship take place.

Collective worship and children:

We encourage our children to take an active role in worship. Children are encouraged to share opinions and ideas, join in with drama and create their own prayers. Classes and/or year groups may take an act of worship for the rest of the school. Planning for collective worship is taken from the Kent Agreed Syllabus for each year group.

Collective Worship and Governors:

The governing Body is aware of their legal responsibilities to uphold the Christian foundation of the school. They are invited to all services in Church and have an open invitation to all acts of worship in school.

Collective worship organisation:

We hold acts of collective worship every day. There is an appointed Leader for Collective worship who ensures that the school is well resourced and regular training takes place to ensure that Collective worship is outstanding. On Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday we have whole school worship. On a Friday collective worship occurs in classes or year groups. It is the responsibility of staff leading the act of collective worship to ensure that the content and form of delivery is accessible for all those present. The Collective worship lead ensures that over time the following opportunities are provided:

- Use of the Bible as a source for stories and teachings, emphasising common themes and ensuring the inclusiveness of the school community is reinforced. Moral tales/teachings and contemporary situations may also be drawn on where appropriate;
- Marking of appropriate festivals and other significant days;

Whole school acts of collective worship:

- Please see outline at the back of this policy
- We aim to create an atmosphere of stillness and calm. To aid this, appropriate music is played for entry and exit from the hall. The chosen piece of music will link to the weekly theme or focus of the worship.
- Leaders are encouraged to actively engage pupils through for example questioning and drama;
- The act of collective worship is kept separate from any notices or other items which may be included in this assembly time.
- The Vicar and her ministry team lead one of our whole school acts of collective worship each week.
- The assembly, including the act of collective worship, usually takes 20 minutes altogether.

Class-based acts of collective worship:

- We aim to give our children some 'space' to be still, quiet and to think reflectively during collective worship in their classroom;
- These acts of collective worship may be led by the class teacher or by one or more of the pupils;
- They usually take around 10 minutes.
- Each class has a designated space for quiet reflection which will be changed regularly throughout the year.
- There is also a designated outdoor reflective space where we can reflect and worship in small groups or individually.

Use of Visitors:

The worship leader is responsible for liaising with any visitors who come into school to lead collective worship. Practical arrangements such as timing, age range of audience and appropriate content are agreed through discussion. By drawing on people from the local community to lead acts of collective worship we enhance community cohesion. A member of the ministry team from our local churches including St Alphege Church leads us in worship once a week. This ensures good links with the school and the Church, visibility of the Clergy to the children and expertise in leading worship.

Health, Safety and Well-being:

In collective worship we follow the school's health and safety policy. For example, appropriate care must be taken when using lighted candles and electrical equipment.

In line with our online safety policy any internet resources used must be checked by the leader prior to their use in an act of collective worship. In the event of fire all pupils must be familiar with exit routes from the halls and other areas of the school where collective worship takes place. Visitors are not left unaccompanied with children.

Equal Opportunities and Inclusion:

Collective worship will challenge stereotypes, misinformation and misconceptions about race, ethnicity, religion and gender. Our distinctively Christian Worship ensures that diversity and equality will be affirmed.

Resources:

A range of resources, including age-appropriate films and PowerPoints, are available to support teachers and pupils with collective worship. An annual allocation, managed by the leader, is available to purchase resources and for training purposes.

In-Service Training:

The collective worship leader attends training as appropriate and available and shares the outcomes with staff. External support from the Diocesan team is drawn on as appropriate and is evidenced through subject leaders action plans. The Incumbent works closely with the Collective Worship leader and is a valuable resource for the school, staff and pupils. They regularly deliver training and opportunities for discussion with the staff team.

Monitoring and Evaluation

All staff and children are involved in the monitoring of worship. All monitoring is carried out in an age appropriate fashion and is fed back to the worship leader to allow for reflection, celebration and growth. When adults are monitoring worship, the pro-forma attached to this policy is used to ensure consistency.

Governors who visit collective worship are invited to provide informal feedback to the leader. In line with Governor policy a named foundation governor will regularly monitor Collective worship.

We encourage pupil voice to inform our monitoring and children have opportunities to feedback on collective worship through discussions and the sharing of their ideas. The CW leader will lead pupil conferencing to monitor worship and RE.

All monitoring is captured in the whole school floor book to allow for this to be celebrated and revisited.

Collective Worship Monitoring Sheet

Observer	Date
Venue	Time
Topic/ Theme	Whole School or Class (Please circle)
Brief description of what happened:	
<p>How clearly was the aim expressed?</p> <p>To what extent was the worship wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian Character?</p> <p>How did the act of worship promote the spiritual and moral development of pupils?</p> <p>Was the act of worship appropriate for the pupils age, ability, background etc?</p> <p>How did the pupils actively participate in the worship?</p> <p>Were their opportunities for: (please circle all that are relevant)</p> <p style="text-align: center;"> <input type="checkbox"/> Reflection? <input type="checkbox"/> Stillness? <input type="checkbox"/> Silence? <input type="checkbox"/> Prayer? </p>	
General Comment:	
Comment from adult leading Collective Worship:	
Copies to: Head of School, Collective Worship Leader, Link Governor	

Outline of worship for St Alphege CE Infant School

Worship Team:

At the beginning of each Worship time the Worship Team gather with the Worship Leader. They assist in preparing the hall (particularly the table) and then welcome everyone at the hall door. At the end of Worship the same children say goodbye at the door as everyone leaves.

Gathering:

The hall is prepared with music playing and a suitable display on the table or pictures or phrase displayed on the screen. The school gathers and children sit facing the worship leader. Staff sit at the side of the hall or among the children as needed.

The leader says "We are all here together."

Everyone responds "We are one big family."

The leader says "Peace be with you."

Everyone responds "And also with you."

The leader may light a candle.

Engaging

The leader introduces the worship theme and presents the worship.

Think about ways to involve the children such as using talk partners and props. Also consider how to relate the worship to St Alphege CE School Values and to the lives of those attending worship. The Worship Team will often have had input into the activities and stories during planning and discussion meetings. The leader may choose to involve members of their class in leading too, for example demonstrating something, reading a prayer or story, sharing an idea.

To attract attention during discussions give a count down from 5 to 1 while holding hand up showing palm.

Responding

Prayer:

Choose an appropriate style of prayer, such as

- The leader says the prayer and children respond with amen.
- Children suggest ideas they would like to pray about and the leader uses them to create a prayer.

Reflection:

The leader suggests something to think about and children sit and reflect quietly.

The leader plays appropriate music or displays pictures which help children to reflect on the theme.

Song:

All sing an appropriate song.

Sending

The worship ends with any or all of the phrases

Leader: Go in peace

Response: We go in peace

Leader: Go in joy

Response: We go in joy

Leader: Go in love

Response: We go in love

Children leave the hall quietly while music plays or singing an appropriate song. Usually the worship leader selects each class.

Extra routines:

In line with our Christian values, rewards are given during worship for good participation in worship.

Expectations of behaviour are high. Children demonstrate good listening so they know how to participate in worship. They are encouraged to take an active part in discussion, in singing and in reflection. Children only stand up or leave the hall in exceptional circumstances.

All adults model the behaviour expected and support the children so they can participate fully in worship.