



Austrey and Newton Regis CE Primary Schools Collective Worship Policy

Becoming the person God made me to be: living,
learning, loving.

*"I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully
made" Psalm 139:14*

TRUST



JUSTICE



FORGIVENESS



HOPE



DIGNITY



COMMUNITY



Agreed: Autumn 2024

Review: Autumn 2027

Our schools are part of the Birmingham Diocesan Multi Academy Trust (BDMAT) and are Voluntary Controlled Church of England Primary Schools where Christianity is fundamental to every aspect of school life.

The **vision** of the Trust is to ensure pupils have 'life in all its fullness'; providing an education that will offer a wide range of opportunities and experiences within a Christian framework.

The Church of England, and the Birmingham Diocesan Multi-Academy Trust believe that every child is unique and deserves the very best education, and therefore we believe that education should support and promote a set of **Christian values**, rooted in scripture:

- Hope - we have hope that there can always be a positive outcome
- Honesty - we are honest with all inside and outside our organisation, whilst being sensitive to how we deliver these messages
- Integrity - we have strong principles rooted in our Christian mission that lead our actions and decisions
- Helpfulness - we work in co-operation and partnership with all staff and stakeholders
- Respect - we respect all those that we come across
- Dignity and compassion - we treat all those within and outside our organisation with dignity, irrespective of the circumstances, and we show everyone compassion for the difficulties that they are experiencing
- Wisdom - The decisions we take are wise; they are based on informed discussions and evidence and we aim to ensure we achieve the best outcomes for all without compromising our values

Our policy for Collective Worship is set in the context of and gives life to our Christian Vision and Values. It mirrors the Church of England Education Office guidance for collective worship - *Inclusive, Invitational, Inspiring 2021*.

The Law

By law Collective Worship:

- must be provided for every registered child every day.
- must be in accordance with the tenets of its foundation and consistent with the denomination or religious tradition of the school in schools with a religious character.







Our Theologically Rooted Christian Vision

Austrey and Newton Regis Church of England Schools are small schools at the heart of their rural communities. They have a living Christian foundation that follows the teaching and example of Jesus who reached out **in love** and drew in everyone, whatever their status or struggles, beliefs or views.

The biblical and theological ideas that have shaped our vision are as follows: **Created to be like God**, we are all individual, different, and precious.

As school families, we treat everyone with **dignity**, seeing each person as a vital stroke in the creation of the masterpiece which is our school community. We love and welcome everyone, supporting them in the ups and downs of life and giving them **hope** for a bright future in their lives and learning. We seek justice for all, embracing those who face challenges in their lives and learning. We act responsibly, treating everyone fairly but not necessarily the same. We work to ensure that everyone has what they need and we act and speak up for those who don't. Equity underpins our commitment to enabling everyone to flourish as the person God made them to be. Therefore, living like Jesus, we think and act with generous and **forgiving** hearts in the strategic and day to day life of the school. **Trusting** in God and the teaching of the bible, we are building a culture of **trust** in which everyone can feel safe; confident that their spiritual, emotional, and academic needs will be met and that their **uniqueness** will contribute to the **unity and wholeness** of Austrey and Newton Regis Church of England Primary Schools.

Our Christian values are:

COMMUNITY	HOPE	DIGNITY	JUSTICE	FORGIVENESS	TRUST
 <p><u>With God's love</u> We focus on relationships, participation in the community, building character and enabling everyone to live well and flourish together. <i>"Share the work and share the wealth. And if one falls down - the other helps"</i> Ecclesiastes 4:9</p>	 <p><u>With God's love</u> We enable healing, repair and renewal, coping wisely when things go wrong, widening our horizons, raising aspirations and guiding everyone into ways of fulfilment. <i>"God says, I know what I am doing. I have it all planned out; plans to take care of you, not abandon you; plans to give you the future you hope for."</i> Jeremiah 29:11</p>	 <p><u>With God's love</u> We educate for dignity and respect, celebrating the preciousness of each person, treating each person as a unique creation of God. <i>"You are blessed when you are content with just who you are - no more - no less"</i> Matthew 5:5</p>	 <p><u>With God's love</u> We treat everyone fairly, but not necessarily the same. We work to ensure that everyone has what they need, and we try to speak up and change things for those who don't. <i>"What does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God"</i> Micah 6:8</p>	 <p><u>With God's love</u> We recognize that we all make mistakes; the life and teaching of Jesus shows how our community can be nourished and repaired as we forgive and ask for forgiveness, letting go of grudges, bitterness or anger. <i>"For if you forgive other people for their offenses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you."</i> Matthew 6:14</p>	 <p><u>With God's love</u> We build a culture of openness, honesty and integrity so that everyone is safe, nurtured, noticed and loved. <i>"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so you may overflow with hope"</i> Romans 15:13</p>

Collective worship and the Church of England

'Church of England schools are committed to offering high quality collective worship. They are places that recognise and value collective worship as central to fostering a sense of community and to expressing the school's Christian vision. In practice this means that structure, planning, evaluation, participation, collaboration, and inspection of worship are all taken seriously by the school and by diocese. We strive to ensure that collective worship remains the relevant and essential component of an education that enables all pupils to flourish and to 'live life in all its fullness' John 10:10. Collective worship is seen as more than a daily 'awe and wonder' moment. It is the unique heartbeat of the school and is offered as part of a wider opportunity for pupils and adults to encounter faith by engaging in conversations about God, both as individuals and together.

We aim for collective worship to be truly welcoming, inclusive and exemplifying the principles of Christian hospitality. This is an approach that seeks to meet the needs of all, wherever they may be on their journey of faith and belief.'

Inclusive, invitational, inspiring The Church of England education 2021

Inclusive, invitational and inspiring

We work to ensure that everyone in the school family has an enriching experience in collective worship.

Inclusive: In our collective worship we meet, explore, question, and respond to others and, for some, to God. We seek to ensure that all pupils, their families and other adults encounter worship that is inclusive of, and fully accessible to, all. We recognise that pupils and staff in our schools come from different faith backgrounds as well as of no faith background. We acknowledge that everyone is at different stages of their spiritual journey during their time in school. We give pupils the opportunity to think and ask questions. There is space to consent, and dissent; to participate and to stand back; and to consider. We take care to ensure that the language used by those facilitating worship avoids assuming faith in all those participating, listening and watching. Collective worship will invite and welcome meaningful contributions from the whole school community, including pupils and adults.

Collective Worship will invite and welcome meaningful contributions from the whole school community, including children and adults. We value the individual experiences, of those in our school community, that they bring to collective worship. In our school, inclusion is expressed through some children and adult involvement in the planning, leading and the evaluation of collective worship. We ensure that our collective school grows out of the local context and out of children's and adults' experiences, including their cultural backgrounds.

Invitational: We aim for our worship to be consistently invitational. There is no compulsion for pupils to do or say anything that makes them uncomfortable. We provide opportunities for pupils 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 are only invited to pray if they wish to do so and are invited to pray in their own way. Invitation to prayer is always be accompanied by the option to reflect.

Music and liturgies used in worship reflect the best of traditional and modern Anglican worship. It connects with the theme wherever possible. They are used to enable pupils to explore the sacred, to educate and engage. We strive to choose music to reflect the diverse worship experience of the wider Christian community and the spiritual life of our school.

Inspiring: Pupils and adults can expect the worship they encounter in our school to be inspirational. Worship should enable pupils and adults to ask big questions about who we are and why we do what we do. It should motivate pupils and adults into action, into thinking differently, and into reflecting on their and the wider community's behaviour and actions. As a result of inspirational collective worship, we aim for pupils and adults to be inspired to become courageous advocates of causes. Collective worship will encourage them to think searchingly about their faith, beliefs and/or philosophical convictions.

Right to withdraw

We acknowledge that there will always be those who are uncomfortable to enter through this open door of worship in our schools. The Church of England recognises the right of withdrawal from collective worship for those parents or pupils who wish to exercise this option. Parents wishing to exercise their right to withdraw should contact the headteacher to discuss this.

Aims and objectives

Collective worship in our Church of England school will do the following:

- Explore the school's vision and how that underpins shared values and virtues. In doing so, it will reflect on moral values such as compassion, gratitude, justice, humility, forgiveness and reconciliation; and develop virtues such as resilience, determination and creativity that develop character and contribute to academic progress.
- Help pupils and adults to appreciate the relevance of faith in today's world by encountering the teachings of Jesus and the Bible and developing understanding of the Christian belief in the trinitarian nature of God.
- Offer the opportunity, without compulsion, to all pupils and adults to grow spiritually through experiences of prayer, stillness, worship and reflection.
- Enable all pupils and adults to appreciate that Christians worship in different ways, for example using music, silence, story, prayer, reflection, as well as through the varied liturgical and other traditions of Anglican worship, festivals and, where appropriate, the Eucharist.
- Enable pupils to develop skills through engaging in the planning, leading and evaluation of collective worship in ways that lead to improving practice. We have a Worship Council that is made up of children from each class who meet regularly. (see Appendix A)

Provision

The rhythm of daily worship in our school allows pupils and adults to step away from the rigour of the classroom, creating a space for an encounter with faith in God. It also provides the opportunity to reflect on larger questions of meaning and purpose. Our school's collective worship practices provide a shared set of symbols, signs, words and actions and traditions which give our community a language upon which it can draw, in times of joy and grief. Collective worship is key to fostering a sense of fellowship and cohesion within our school community. Whether in times of

crisis or celebration, this time set aside in the school day provides staff and pupils with the opportunity to gather and support one another as a community. Throughout the year, we meet to celebrate and mark seasons in the Church calendar, such as Lent and Advent. Other important events in the school year, such as the end of the academic year, are marked special services, often in church.

Pupils and adults will encounter the practice of regular prayer and worship as a normal part of the life of the school. These activities help provide a rhythm and stillness as a pattern of community life. Worship in our school will follow a recognisable structure that will help focus worship on important themes. Worship mostly takes place between 8.55 - 9.15am each day. There is music playing as the children enter and exit the hall. We use a welcome or prayer as we light the candle (see Appendix B).

The general pattern our worship reflects that of an Anglican church service:

Gather	Gathering in a space with others	Stillness Peace Reflection Together/community Welcome Releasing Expecting Setting the atmosphere	Instrumental music Images A question to think about Lighting candles Bringing things to the worship table Liturgical or other greeting Bible stories Other stories Images Film/drama News Vision and values Talk partners Something to hold Church calendar Community joys and sorrows
Engage	Engaging, getting involved	Hearing Seeing Learning Wondering Asking Questioning Experiences Sharing Thinking	Known prayers Prepared prayers Responsive prayers Sung prayers In the moment prayers Sensory prayers
Respond	Responding to an invitation	Taking action Acting for oneself Acting for others Living differently Putting something right Making a change Making a commitment	

		Worshipping	Prayer walk
		Praying	
		Thinking about what I can learn about God, myself, others, the world	
Send	Sending out/living life differently	Being inspired to: Live well or differently To pass the message on To encourage and be encouraged To love and be loved To value and be valued To make a difference To make the world a little more like God intended	Known prayers Sending liturgy Take aways Clergy blessing Sing as you leave Leave in silence Leave to music

Our pattern for worship:

Monday: Topical theme for the week, e.g. World Peace Day linked to our values

Tuesday: Christian values

Wednesday: Picture News (British Values)

Thursday: Songs for Worship

Friday: Celebration

We nurture a close relationship between the school and the local churches and we value the participation of the local clergy who leads a collective worship in each school fortnightly and takes part in our worship on a regular basis. The 'All souls' team lead Collective Worship in school once every month and for special occasions such as Advent, enriching experiences of Bible stories for the children by retelling, presenting and involving the children.

Developing staff expertise and knowledge

Within the context of our resources, we work to build up the expertise of staff, pupils, clergy and other adults in facilitating collective worship in our school. We strive to ensure that:

- Worship leaders, including clergy, have access to regular training, primarily through local diocesan education teams.
- Pupil worship leaders are supported, encouraged and resourced to contribute meaningful acts of worship.
- Worship leaders, including clergy, have access to high quality and current resources.
- Those from outside agencies and church groups invited into the school to facilitate are properly briefed about the school, its pupil context and the school's vision.

Monitoring and evaluation

- The governing body has robust systems in place to monitor the impact of worship effectively; this monitoring includes and meaningfully involves pupil voice.
- There is a named member of staff responsible for collective worship who ensures that appropriate policy and practice are in place and publicly available. This is **Sara Eley**

References:

Church of England vision for education:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/about/education-and-schools/vision-education>

Church of England Education Office guidance on collective worship:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2021-05/Collective%20Worship%20Guidance%2018052021.pdf>

Main Resources

- Roots and Fruits
- Out of the Ark Music
- Charanga Music Listening Centre
- Picture News

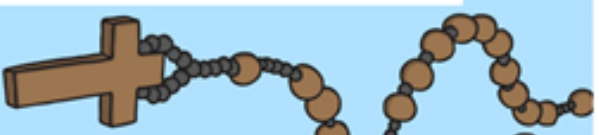


Worship Council Roles and Responsibilities



- Help lead worship and choose worship songs
- Discuss worship and how it can be improved.
- Have ideas for prayer and keep prayer books up-to-date.
- Take responsibility for your class reflection area.
- Think and talk about the Christian ethos in our school and how it can be improved.
- Look for children who are demonstrating our Christian values to award lanyards to and explain why you have chosen them
- Take ideas and suggestions from your year group to talk about in meetings
- Promote events in your year group.

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Becoming the person God made me to be: living, learning, loving.

"I praise you because I am, fearfully and wonderfully made." Psalm 139:14.



Spirituality is the opening of hearts and minds through reflection and questioning of the world which lifts the soul and makes the heart sing. For some, it will be experienced through faith and worship.



Inspiring our children to flourish and enjoy 'life in all its fullness' (John 10:10)

