

Collective Worship

Potters Gate CE Primary School and St Andrew's Infant School

Review Period:	3 Yearly
Next Review Due:	September 2027
LC Lead	CD Lead
Staff Lead	RE Lead

"I have come that you may have life - life in all its fullness," John 10:10

Developing in our children the ability to find joy in life, the natural world, finding moral and spiritual strength for their own lives.

We celebrate our differences, welcoming families of different faiths, social and ethnic backgrounds to our school family and share the abundance of what we have with all.

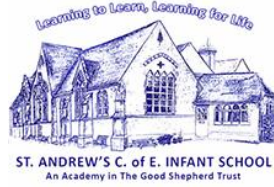
Collective worship is at the heart of the school and always follows the needs of school life and the needs of the school community, offering all pupils an opportunity to develop every child intellectually, creatively, physically, emotionally, socially, morally and spiritually in a happy and safe environment.

At Potters Gate and St. Andrew's Collective Worship allows the school community a time to reflect and pause. This period each day enables us to create a sense of belonging through worship. It is about sharing our common concerns and responsibilities whilst exploring positive attitudes and values towards life both within the school community and beyond. We are committed to ensuring each individual will derive some benefit from these sessions.

Our collective worship affirms and celebrates the values and ethos of our school. We aim to begin to understand the issues of Christianity with God and the teachings of the gospels through values and themes. Collective worship is a special time for our children and staff to reflect upon their life experiences and develop their own spiritual identity.

Collective Worship provides everyone with the opportunity to:

- Pause and Reflect
- express praise and thanksgiving to God
- reflect on the attributes of God
- reflect on the teachings of Christ
- affirm Christian values and attitudes
- share each other's joys and challenges
- celebrate special times in the Christian calendar
- foster respect and unity
- deepen spiritual awareness



All church primary schools have close links with their parish churches. Clergy and leaders from other Christian denominations visit regularly to contribute to worship in school and occasional services are held in the local church.

Aims and purposes

We aim, through the Christian ethos, to encourage all participants in School worship to communicate with God their questions, aspirations, feelings, thoughts and to give thanks.

We encourage in children a sense of community spirit and promote a common Christian ethos with shared values, reinforcing positive attitudes.

In order to achieve these aims we provide the following opportunities:

- Time to come together to praise God;
- Time for thinking, sharing, listening, discussing, silence and reflection;
- Time to learn about Jesus' teachings from The Bible;
- Opportunities to explore and reflect on general, current themes
- An understanding of Christian traditions and beliefs;
- An awareness of key events in the Liturgical year;
- Time to reflect on Christian symbols and their use in worship
- Time to worship through traditional and contemporary hymns and songs;
- Visitors who are invited to attend and lead school worship.
- Have time to consider spiritual and moral issues and to explore their own beliefs and their own spirituality.
- To encourage in children a sense of community spirit and promote a common ethos with shared values, reinforcing positive attitudes

Collective Worship is planned by leaders and reflects the values that the whole school community has decided, based on context of the school and observations. Our values reflect what we feel our community needs most.

Trust,

Fellowship,

Justice,

Resilience.



Collective Worship

We understand that worship is a special act or occasion where we, as a school, show reverence to God. Collective worship involves members of the school community coming together and participating in the act of worship and reflection.

While the majority of acts of worship in our school are Christian, we also hold assemblies that reflect other traditions that are represented in our school and wider community, particularly acknowledging important festivals of other faiths.

We welcome visitors to our collective worship. Some visitors are invited to share their experiences, linked to the theme of the collective worship, other visitors present a whole assembly on a theme requested by the Headteacher. We welcome the Sign Posts team at least once a term.

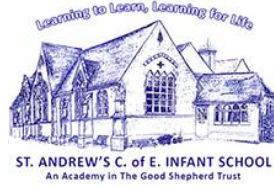
Organisation of Collective Worship

We hold a daily act of worship in our School, taking various forms:

- The exact day that the style of worship takes place will vary depending on the activities in the school, and availability of visitors however each week there will be an assembly when;
An act of collective worship which introduces the theme and value that week, with the bible as a central reference. It is broadly Christian, reflecting the Anglican tradition. Where appropriate we will share stories from other religions to reflect our multicultural society.
- A follow up worship, Thoughtful Time, linking the introduction to our daily life. Children record their reflections in the class Reflection Floor Books.
- Collective Worship in class (on weeks when there isn't an assembly for parents). This will be based around a bible story linked to the Christian Calendar as specified by leaders.
- Whole school hymn practice led by music coordinator.
- A whole school worship which follows the church calendar, exploring a bible story through drama and pupil participation.
- Each class presents a class assembly in each academic year at Potters Gate CE Primary School and St. Andrew's Infant School. We invite parents to watch their child participate in a class assembly.
- A weekly celebration worship. This worship reflects the children's achievements in and out of school, based on children demonstrating the school values, offering an opportunity to acknowledge and reward children.

Themes

- Our Collective worship is based around our Christian Values which then lead into every aspect of school life
- There is a programme of values which are agreed by the whole school community. Some festivals celebrated by other religions are also marked.



Atmosphere

- Children and adults enter and leave Worship in a dignified and respectful manner, to carefully selected music.
- All are encouraged to appreciate that worship time is a period of calm reflection, a special time, where appropriate behaviour is expected.
- We ask them to be quiet and thoughtful and to engage carefully with the reflection time.

Main Worship

- The theme of the worship is introduced and the main part of the worship takes place, through story, drama, etc.
- All are encouraged to participate in prayers and hymns.
- Children are encouraged to answer questions about what they have read and heard.
- Questioning will take the theme of big questions.

Right of Withdrawal

We expect all children to attend worship. However, any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from attending religious worship. Parents would be reminded of the integral place of the act of worship in school and in this case a church school. This complies with the 1944 Education Act and was restated in the 1988 Education Reform Act.

Monitoring, Review and Inspection

It is the role of the Local Committee (Faith Team) to monitor the policy and practice of collective worship. Committee members are expected to observe and evaluate collective worship each half term. The Faith Team will monitor the work in the school each half term.

The School shall also be inspected through Section 23 every five years through the SIAMS Inspection process.

Policies linked to this:

Teaching and learning Policy

RE Policy

Behaviour Policy

Anti-bullying Policy.

Equalities Policy