

Aston St Mary's



Church of England (VA)
Primary School

**ASTON ST MARY'S
CHURCH OF ENGLAND
(VOLUNTARY AIDED) PRIMARY SCHOOL**

Every child is a treasure – small in size, growing in God's love.



**The Diocese
of St Albans**

Policy for Collective worship

Effective from:	June 2023
Review Date:	June 2025
Author:	Lianne Holmes

At ASM school we believe all of God's children should feel safe at all times. Every child is a treasure – small in size, growing in God's love. In our school, our Christian values will support us to keep our children safe and to allow them to grow up surrounded by God's love. This policy, along with the others in school, will help us to do this.



Aston St Mary's School Policy



Subject: Collective Worship	Author L Holmes
Effective date: June 2023	Last reviewed June 2023
To be reviewed: June 2025	

Introduction

This Policy is carried out within the context and spirit of the school's vision and values:

Every child is a treasure – small in size, growing in God's love.

At Aston St Mary's School each individual child is treasured and celebrated. Our Christian values support achievement and respect through an enriched education and environment. Children grow in God's unconditional love and are encouraged and nurtured to reach their full potential academically, emotionally and spiritually.

The ethos of our school is expressed through Collective Worship. It derives from the Christian tradition and seeks to activate our beliefs and values which are clearly set out in the School Prospectus.

Collective Worship plays an important part in the life of our school, and acts of collective worship are embedded throughout the day, weaving their way through the life and heart of the school. It is a time in the school day when children, staff and sometimes visitors meet in a calm and peaceful atmosphere and where all present are given the opportunity to reflect and participate. It represents something 'special' and separate from ordinary school routine.

1. Purpose

This policy explains the provision for acts of collective worship at Aston St Mary's School.

2. Scope

This policy applies to all teachers, parents, ancillary staff and governors.

3. Definitions

Worship: can be defined as revering that which is of worth ("worth-ship"). Religious worship is the acknowledgement of worth which is attributable to a supreme being. Worth can also be registered in other people and in values and attitudes.

School Assembly: is a gathering of the school community, often used to focus on the life and values of the community itself.

Collective Worship: is a gathering of a collection of people of diverse religious, agnostic and non – religious backgrounds and does not assume a particular religious commitment.

NB We note that although Collective Worship and Assembly are not one and the same thing, in practice they often overlap.

4. Legal Requirements

- Our acts of Collective Worship take place in accordance with the Trust Deed of Aston St Mary's School. This requires worship to be consistent with the principles and practices of the Church of England and will, therefore, be Christian in character.

- The 1988 Education Reform Act states that Collective Worship should be part of a broad and balanced curriculum which promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils and society.
- All maintained schools – including church schools - must provide a daily act of Collective Worship for all registered pupils.

5. Aims and Objectives

In Church of England schools, 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 want pupils to leave school with a rich experience and understanding of Christianity, and we are committed to offering them an encounter with Jesus Christ and with Christian faith and practice in a way that enhances their lives...Collective worship in schools, including prayer, reading and reflecting on the Bible, liturgy, sacrament and experience of the musical and other imaginative riches of Christianity, provide a vital opportunity for this.

This form of encounter through worship should 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.

Diocese of St Albans May 2021

Through Collective worship we aim to

- Provide experiences which will allow pupils to develop their spiritual awareness
- Express the ethos and values of our school
- Contribute to the Religious Education of all pupils
- Provide a varied pattern of worship to broaden pupils' experience of its different forms
- Recognise that some children come from different religious and non-religious backgrounds

Our objectives are, through Collective Worship, to:

- Affirm the Christian faith
- Introduce pupils to the practice of religious worship through music, art, story, poetry, movement and prayer
- Create a warm, caring and respectful atmosphere in assemblies which is conducive to worship, including the manner of entry and exit
- Encourage, in our children, a thoughtful and reflective attitude
- Enable pupils to use silence for reflection and contemplation
- Enable pupils to learn about and consider Christian teaching, Christian festivals and biblical material
- Help pupils to reflect upon their own beliefs in relation to others
- Enhance pupils' moral, cultural, social and spiritual development
- Affirm pupils' personal worth and responsibility
- Celebrate individual and collective achievements
- Help pupils learn to distinguish between right and wrong
- Develop a sense of our school community
- Celebrate religious festivals and special occasions with specific worship
- Give children a chance to plan and lead acts of collective worship

6. Management

The **Governing Body** is responsible for

- Ensuring that Collective Worship is firmly based on the intentions set down in the Trust Deed
- Ensuring that this policy is put into practice and monitored by the appropriate governor

The Head Teacher and the Collective Worship co-ordinator have responsibility for managing the worship on a day-to-day basis, ensuring that all legal requirements are complied with.

The co-ordinator also keeps in touch with national developments in school worship and acts in an advisory capacity, supporting colleagues.

7. Organisation

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Key Stage Worship Led by Class Teacher	9.00 - 9.15 am Whole School 'Celebration Assembly' Led by Head Teacher	9.00 – 9.15 am Worship for whole school community Led by pupils and/or Teachers	9.00 – 9.15 am Whole School Worship Led by Vicar	Class Worship Led by Class Teacher

The school also worships in the church on the following occasions:

- Harvest Festival
- Remembrance
- Christmas
- Easter
- Mothering Service
- End of Summer Term – Leavers Service

Pupils attend additional services in school or church led by the vicar include:

- Christingle, Ash Wednesday and Pentecost

8. Elements of Worship

Atmosphere is all important in creating the right foundation for Collective Worship. Children enter and leave the hall in a quiet and respectful manner and they listen to calming music as they do so. Teaching staff normally attend all worship. There is a designated display board for our half termly Christian values theme board and a focal point is created with a cross and a lighted candle.

Music for entry and leaving is changed every week. It is chosen by the Music Co-ordinator and reflects the half termly theme. The week's song is chosen from a wide variety of traditional and modern hymns. These songs are learned by the children through practice and the display of the words gradually increasing the known repertoire.

Stories and Presentations are planned carefully to fulfil the objectives of Collective Worship and to engage the children. Full use is made of visual aids, artefacts, drama, demonstration and ICT.

Prayer and Reflection. Participation in prayer cannot be imposed but we stress the need for stillness, reflection and respect for others during prayers. Sometimes we use moments of silence for thinking time. The candle helps to focus children's thoughts.

9. Equal Opportunities

All pupils have equal opportunity to take part in Collective Worship and to benefit from the experience. The School Prospectus informs parents of their right to withdraw pupils from Collective Worship.

10. Multiculturalism

The school follows the Discovery RE and Understanding Christianity, which includes teaching and learning about all major world faiths. Children of all faiths and no faith have the opportunity to share and reflect on their beliefs.

11. Role of the Co-ordinator

- To write the school's policy for Collective worship in consultation with the Head teacher, Staff and Governors
- To ensure that all staff are aware of and use the policy
- To review the policy on a regular basis
- To co-ordinate the plan of worship for the year
- To be responsible for assembly displays and resources
- With others, to monitor and evaluate Collective Worship in all its forms
- To report to the Head Teacher and Governors
- To keep up to date with recent publications, attend courses and disseminate information and feedback to staff

12. Review

Governing Body members will review this policy, formally, on a bi-annual basis.

Authorisation:



Signed _____ Date 5th June 2023
On behalf of the Governing Body