St Andrew's CE Primary School

At St Andrew's we **BELIEVE** all God's children should flourish in every area of their lives. Our broad and balanced curriculum **INSPIRES** the whole child with their unique talents, encouraging them to develop self-respect and high aspirations. We help them to **ACHIEVE** their full potential through active and creative learning that will develop their knowledge, skills and understanding with our supportive community.

'With God all things are possible' (Matthew 19:26)

Collective Worship Policy

2025/26

Introduction

Our Collective Worship Policy strengthens and supports the Christian identity of our school, reaffirms our vision:

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and the associated values we derive from them Friendship, Courage and Confidence. We call these our TERRIFIC values

It celebrates the central role that each child has to play in their community. Our worship reflects the variety of traditions found in the Church of England, and will recognise and follow the Christian liturgical year. The daily Christian act of worship is heartbeat of our school, central to our ethos and is supported by all staff and governors. It makes an important contribution to the overall spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of the whole school community.

At St Andrew's collective worship aims to be inspirational, invitational and inclusive. Collective Worship, in recognising the collectivity of all participants, can make no such assumption that all have the same beliefs and values.

We regularly welcome parents, governors and other visitors to our collective worship sessions.

What is Collective Worship?

Legislation requires schools, including Voluntary Aided, Voluntary Controlled and Academy schools, to conduct daily acts of Collective Worship. However, the legislation does not define what is meant by the term 'Collective Worship'.

By Law Collective Worship must:

- Be provided for every registered child every day
- In schools with a religious character, daily Collective Worship must be in accordance with the tenets of its foundation and consistent with the denomination or religious tradition of the school.
- Parents have a right to withdraw their children from all or any acts of Collective Worship. Whilst we respect this right, we kindly request that parents initially discuss this with the headteacher. If after this meeting, parents still wish for their child to be withdrawn they are requested to put this in writing.

The intention of our Collective Worship

It is our intention to offer Collective Worship that meets the requirements of the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) schedule.

Collective Worship gives pupils and school staff the opportunity, without compulsion :

- Have a pivotal place in the life of the school.
- Support pupils and adults in their spiritual growth
- Be the central vehicle by which the school's vision is unpacked and explored so that the whole school community is challenged and engaged with the teachings of Jesus and the Bible.
- Provide an experience of worship that will offer opportunities for those present to observe and/or respond to the presence, power and peace of God as understood by Christians. This will always be invitational, offering an opportunity to take part whilst allowing the freedom for those of other faiths and none to be present with integrity.
- Support pupils in the development of their understanding of the Trinitarian nature of God in Christian belief
- Provide a variety of different opportunities for reflection, understanding of diverse liturgical traditions, participation, challenge and enjoyment where all present can be actively involved and develop their own spirituality whilst contributing to the communal journey.
- Help children to become familiar with Christian language and symbolism and the cycle of the Church year so that they are offered a pattern of meanings and a framework into which they can begin to integrate experience.
- Explore a variety of ways of praying, giving children the opportunity to form their own prayers using multi-sensory foci and introduce them to some well know Christian prayers, as well as a variety of prayers of thanksgiving before mealtimes and home time.
- Offer opportunities to all children and staff to develop their skills in planning, leading and evaluating the impact of school worship.
- Pupils will be at the centre of this process taking on increasingly independent roles in planning and leading worship.
- Ensure that materials and themes for worship are carefully selected to make sure pupils understand the work of Christians and the church locally, nationally and globally and how this reflects the teachings of the Bible and the example of Jesus.
- Share in each other's joys and challenges.
- Explore the big questions and respond to national events. Chelmsford Diocesan Board of Education Promoting life in all its fullness through education across Essex and East London
- Encourage local church community partnerships to support the school effectively in developing its provision for Collective Worship.

The Anglican Christian Tradition

As part of our Collective Worship Practice we incorporate the following elements fundamental to our Church of England identity.

- Using Prayer and reflection
- Exploring the Christian understanding of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit
- Using the Bible for inspiration, stories and guidance
- Observing the cycle of the Church's Year – Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, Pentecost and Saints Days amongst ordinary days (See appendix A)
- Learning and saying prayers from a number of sources, in particular the Lord's Prayer and the blessings in common use
- Singing a wide variety of hymns and songs from traditional to modern
- Using Christian symbols in worship and reflecting on their meaning

We also use elements which are more distinctively Anglican:

- Using prayers from Common Worship
- Using Anglican liturgy at the beginning and end of worship
- Using coloured cloth in liturgical colours appropriate to the season of the church year to create the sacred space for worship (See appendix A)
- Celebrating the Eucharist

Our Collective Worship Pattern and Practice

- The themes for assembly follow the St Andrew's values and are planned using Roots and Fruits by the headteacher. The theme is broken down into different aspects – EG Friendship is split up into kindness, equality, inclusivity etc.

Autumn – Friendship Spring – Courage Summer - Confidence		
Monday	Headteacher	Introduce value using roots and fruits
Tuesday	Incumbent	Developing the value further
Wednesday	SLT	Developing the value
Thursday	Rota of class teachers	Picture News introduction
Friday	Headteacher	Celebration - roll of honour for children exhibiting the value all week, attendance, reading and maths certificates, TERRIFIC work in and out of school

- All collective worship sessions are held in the school hall at 9:00-9:20 for the whole school.
- Our Collective Worship generally has some core elements.
    - At our 'Gathering', we welcome the school community with a liturgical greeting 'May the Lord be with you' we light a candle and have music playing as children enter.
    - At our 'Engaging' we have the leader's main input into the act of Worship. We engage the pupils by sharing a core message. This may be through a Bible story and pupil activity.
    - This is followed with a 'Responding' opportunity. These are opportunities for pupils and staff to reflect upon this message and the impact that it has on their lives today. This may be through prayer, quiet reflection, activity, song or discussion.
    - We conclude our Collective Worship by 'Sending' out. We close our worship through one or more of the following elements – a song, prayer, music, blowing out of the candle.
    - The messages in our Collective Worship may be followed up on in classes and in further acts of Collective Worship.
    - On Fridays we give thanks to God for the achievements of our pupils across every aspect of our school's life. These are acts of worship celebrating God's diverse gifts to every member of our pupil community, and parents are invited to join us.

Pupil Led Worship

Since we believe worship to the activity of the whole school community, we actively promote appropriate pupil leadership as well as full participation. We have a Pupil Collective Worship Council. This group is supported by

the headteacher, and they are involved with the planning and delivery of collective worship sessions. They meet half termly to plan for the sessions, and are involved daily in the running of collective worship by leading the prayer or reflection and organizing the music.

Staff Development and Training

We ensure that all staff, including support staff, receive appropriate training and opportunities for professional development, both as individuals and as groups or teams. (Insert any further information about staff training)

Visitor Leaders to Collective Worship

We welcome visitors to lead and participate in our Collective Worship. Visiting Collective Worship Leaders are asked to read and comply with our school visitor and safeguarding policies. The welcoming member of staff/headteacher/Collective Worship Lead will discuss with the visitor, prior to the visitor leading Collective Worship, the content, expectations and practices Collective Worship. The purpose is to ascertain its suitability for the school community. Visitors are never left alone with children as the supervision of pupils remains the responsibility of school staff.

Appendix A

Advent	The First Sunday of Advent The Second Sunday of Advent The Third Sunday of Advent *From 17 December* (O Sapientia) - *begin the eight days of prayer before Christmas Day* The Fourth Sunday of Advent Christmas Eve	**PURPLE**
Christmastide Epiphany	**Christmas Day** – *25 December* The First Sunday of Christmas The Second Sunday of Christmas *The days after Christmas Day until the Epiphany traditionally form a unity of days of special thanksgiving.*	**WHITE OR GOLD**
Epiphany	**The Epiphany** – *6 January* The Baptism of Christ – *The First Sunday of Epiphany* - (The Second Sunday of Epiphany when 6 January is a Sunday) The Second Sunday of Epiphany The Third Sunday of Epiphany The Fourth Sunday of Epiphany **The Presentation of Christ in the Temple** (Candlemas) – *2 February*	**WHITE OR GOLD**
Ordinary Time	*This begins on the day following the Presentation* The Fifth Sunday before Lent The Fourth Sunday before Lent The Third Sunday before Lent The Second Sunday before Lent The Sunday next before Lent	**GREEN**
Lent	**Ash Wednesday** The First Sunday of Lent The Second Sunday of Lent The Third Sunday of Lent The Fourth Sunday of Lent – *Mothering Sunday* The Fifth Sunday of Lent *(Passiontide begins)* Palm Sunday Monday of Holy Week Tuesday of Holy Week Wednesday of Holy Week **Maundy Thursday** **Good Friday** Easter Eve	**PURPLE**
Eastertide	**Easter Day** Monday of Easter Week Tuesday of Easter Week Wednesday of Easter Week Thursday of Easter Week Friday of Easter Week Saturday of Easter Week The Second Sunday of Easter The Third Sunday of Easter The Fourth Sunday of Easter The Fifth Sunday of Easter The Sixth Sunday of Easter **Ascension Day**	**WHITE OR GOLD**

	From Friday after Ascension Day, begin the nine days of prayer before Pentecost The Seventh Sunday of Easter – *Sunday after Ascension Day* **Pentecost** (Whit Sunday)	
Pentecost	*This is resumed on the Monday following the Day of Pentecost* **Trinity Sunday** *The Thursday after Trinity Sunday may be observed as* The Day of Thanksgiving for the Institution of Holy Communion (Corpus Christi) The First Sunday after Trinity The Second Sunday after Trinity The Third Sunday after Trinity The Fourth Sunday after Trinity The Fifth Sunday after Trinity The Sixth Sunday after Trinity The Seventh Sunday after Trinity The Eighth Sunday after Trinity The Ninth Sunday after Trinity The Tenth Sunday after Trinity The Eleventh Sunday after Trinity The Twelfth Sunday after Trinity The Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity The Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity The Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity The Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity The Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity The Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity The Nineteenth Sunday after Trinity The Twentieth Sunday after Trinity The Twenty-first Sunday after Trinity The Last Sunday after Trinity Dedication Festival – *The First Sunday in October or The Last Sunday after Trinity, if date unknown*	**RED**

MEANING / SYMBOLISM	COLOUR	SEASON
Royalty	PURPLE	Advent
Suffering and pain	PURPLE	Lent
Times of joy and celebrations	GOLD or WHITE	Christmas Easter
All living things, renewal and promise of new life	GREEN	Between festivals
Fire	RED	Pentecost Saints' days