

**ASTBURY ST. MARY'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL**  
**Collective Worship Policy – 2016**

**Introduction**

Our school is a Church of England (Aided) Primary School. Collective worship follows broad Christian ideas based on the Anglican faith. To offer worship is to give worth to God and it is the intention of this policy to assist the school in offering pupils a vision of God which is worth pursuing. This policy has been formulated by the staff and agreed by the governing body. It outlines the purpose, nature and management of collective worship in our school.

**Aims**

Collective worship should:

- † be provided for every child every day
- † provide opportunities for spiritual and moral development
- † enable everybody to celebrate the whole life of the school in the presence of God
- † allow pupils to become familiar with a variety of worship in the Anglican traditions, according to their developmental stage
- † provide opportunities for pupils to address God directly
- † encourage pupils to learn more about the Christian faith
- † nurture a concern for the wider world
- † encourage reflection on pupils' own experience and beliefs

**Entitlement**

Collective worship is carried out in accordance with the faith and practice of the Church of England. Opportunities are provided for pupils to offer worship to God, through Jesus Christ, without losing sight of either the different starting points of each of the pupils, or the need for the act of worship to take account of the developmental ages of the pupils. 1988 Act 6 (1)

The whole school meet together for worship, but on occasion also gather in classes or groups of pupils. Parents are advised that they have the right to withdraw their child/children from collective worship. However it is not possible to separate the child from the Christian ethos in the school. Collective worship provides an opportunity for reflecting upon the daily life of our school, celebrating achievements of all kinds, reflecting upon the need for repentance and forgiveness within relationships, and exploring the Christian values that our school upholds. Themes which are explored during the time of worship aims to inform the whole curriculum and pastoral relationships within the school.

**Implementation**

'The arrangements for the collective act of worship in a ...voluntary school...shall be made...by the governing body after consultation with the head teacher.' 1988 Act 6 (3)

The school holds an act of worship in the church 'on a special occasion' (1988 Act 6 (5), but this is not counted as curriculum time.

In order to provide opportunities for worship to be offered to God within an educational context we stress active pupil involvement that encourages the pupils to engage with profound questions of meaning and value, and we ensure that there is time for reflection and prayer. It is neither possible nor desirable that pupils should be compelled to worship, but they are encouraged to respond to the consideration of the spiritual dimension to their lives in an atmosphere which affirms both themselves and the community and foundation of which they are a part. It is within the Anglican tradition to respect and celebrate insights from other world faiths: however, it is not appropriate to offer prayers within these traditions.

The head teacher is responsible for planning weekly themes linked to a wider half-termly learning objective. The main events of the Christian calendar are also incorporated into the themes.

Many different methods are used to implement the acts of worship during the week:

- † Bible stories
- † stories or poems with a Bible theme
- † singing hymns
- † use of visual aids
- † drama / role play
- † interactive involvement of the pupils
- † said prayers, including the Lord's Prayer
- † moments of reflective silence
- † welcoming of visitors
- † fostering a sense of community and emphasising the fact that worship is valued
- † celebrations of achievements and successes of pupils, staff and the community

Timetable for worship

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Whole school led by the head teacher	Whole school sung worship led by the head teacher or foundation governor	Whole school led by the head teacher	Whole school led by the incumbent	Whole school celebration led by the head teacher

As well as the above, the school uses candles and music to focus children's thoughts as they enter into the time of worship. Liturgy is also said to start and close each act of worship. Whilst the majority of worship is led by the head teacher, on occasion, children and other staff members also lead.

Parents are made aware of the plans for special acts of worship which are held in school or in the church, including Harvest, Christmas, May Day and an end of year service, and are welcome to join with the school in worship.

Approved for Issue

\_\_\_\_\_ Chair of Governors

\_\_\_\_\_ Headteacher