

William Alvey CE Primary School



Collective Worship Policy

Written May 2024



The Diocesan
Board of Education

Our vision for education mirrors William Alvey's actions and aspirations. We believe education should be holistic, meet the very different needs of everyone in our school community, so they all experience 'life in all its fullness' (John 10:10).

We realise this vision by working towards:

- Realising Potential - Aspiration
- Developing Character - Resilience
- Working Together - Tolerance
- Serving Others - Respect

Christians believe that all people are made in the image of God (Genesis 1.26-27) and that as a result, each person should be treated with dignity and respect. From a Christian perspective, each person should know that they are valuable and valued, and so should aspire to flourish in their God-given uniqueness. Jesus affirms this when he says that he has come to bring life in all its fullness to everyone (John 10.10).

This underpins the work of many Christians around the world throughout history, including Oscar Romero. In a prayer recognising the importance and impact of his work in his context, this belief is articulated using a gardening metaphor:

“This is what we are about: We plant the seeds that one day will grow. We water seeds already planted, knowing that they hold future promise.”

This is what we believe we are doing in our school community, so that our ***‘Learning Today’*** enables us to ***‘Live Tomorrow.’***



Policy Statement

At the William Alvey CE Primary School, worship is central to the life of school and is a platform for exploring the school's vision. It is well planned and of high quality so that the whole school community is engaged on a journey of discovery, exploring the teachings of Jesus and the Bible.

For Christians in church, worship is about honouring God and responding to the loving nature of God as revealed through the Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. A school is not a church but is a collection of people who come from a variety of backgrounds for the purpose of education. The family backgrounds may be very different and collective worship must take account of the varied circumstances of adults and pupils.

At the William Alvey CE Primary School, collective worship aims to be inspirational, invitational and inclusive and will lead people to a threshold where they can witness worship and join in, if they wish.

Through Collective Worship, pupils will be offered a space and a place for the telling of the Christian story. They will be offered an understanding of worship by being invited to participate in or observe prayer, reading and reflection on the Bible, liturgy, sacrament and experience of the musical and other imaginative riches of Christianity. Opportunities to reflect on the beauty, joy and pain of the world will be given. Pupils will be given time to consider their responsibilities to others and to grow in love and service. Time will be given for celebration, both for the accomplishments of school members and to mark the seasonal festivals of the Christian calendar. Pupils will be offered time to be able to contemplate and develop spiritually.

Church of England Guidance

Our Collective Worship policy at William Alvey CE Primary School draws on guidance from the Church of England. This guidance document has been produced to challenge, to guide and set expectations for Church school communities and diocesan authorities, encouraging them to reflect on their practice and to ensure that collective worship remains the relevant and essential component of an education that enables all pupils to flourish.

Legal requirements for Collective Worship

At William Alvey CE Primary School, we hold a daily act of Collective Worship for all pupils which fulfils the requirements of the Education Reform Act 1988, as amended by the Education Act 1993. The Governing Body at the William Alvey C of E Primary School have the responsibility for ensuring that the school meets the requirements for worship detailed in the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Evaluation Document.

The right of withdrawal

Part of the distinctively Christian nature of our Church of England School is that we are hospitable and inclusive to all in the community that we serve. Collective worship at William Alvey CE Primary School occupies a central place in the life of our school and adds to our distinctive ethos of Christian tradition. This is made clear on induction so children in our school and their families who are members of another faith, or who hold a non- religious world view, are fully aware of this.

The 1944 and 1988 Education Acts state that parents have the right to withdraw children from collective worship and suitable arrangements should be made to accommodate these children. Other adults also have the right to withdraw from Collective Worship.

On occasions, a parent may make a request for their child to be withdrawn from Collective Worship. There is an expectation that parents wishing to request a withdrawal will meet with the Headteacher to discuss their concerns and requirements. It may be helpful to establish:

- The elements of worship in which the parent would object to the child taking part.
- The other aspects of school life that are impacted by the Christian foundation of the school such as prayer and reflective areas.
- The practical implications of withdrawal.
- Whether the parent will require any advanced notice of such worship, and if so, how much.

Where parents have withdrawn their children from collective worship and request religious worship according to their particular faith or denomination, the governors and Headteacher will seek to respond positively to such requests providing:

- Such arrangements can be made at no additional cost to the school.
- That the alternative provision would be consistent with the overall purposes of the school curriculum as set out in the Education Acts

If the parent asks that a pupil should be wholly or partly excused from attending any religious worship at the school, then the school must comply.

Aims of collective worship

Collective worship should be distinctive and inclusive and should also provide opportunities for pupils to be invited to:

- Worship God and promote the joy of worship as engaging, inspiring and transformative.
- Develop spirituality, morality, social and cultural values.
- Reaffirm, interpret and put into practice the Christian values of the school, which are Tolerance, Resilience, Respect and Aspiration.
- Be provided with a peaceful environment enabling stillness, reflection and prayer.
- Be given an opportunity to acquire a secure knowledge of the Christian faith as revealed in the Bible.
- Understand, celebrate and develop their knowledge of Christian beliefs, celebrations, traditions and religious festivals in the Anglican church year, thus use the seasons and festivals of the Christian year.
- Use and promote the clearly identified Christian values of this school as a church school.
- Develop an understanding of Jesus Christ and a Christian understanding of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
- Develop an understanding of Anglican traditions and the practice of the local parish church.
- Support pupils in the development of their understanding of the Trinitarian nature of God in Christian belief.
- 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.

Planning and Organisation

- Collective worship is planned in accordance with our weekly pattern of worship. Whilst there are common elements – see the guide below – we do not have a restrictive approach that must be followed in every collective worship assembly. We want those leading collective worship to inspire our children and make them think about the deeper meaning of life. We believe this is best achieved by allowing an element of professional choice when planning collective worship. We ensure our aims are met by monitoring, and reviewing, the impact of our collective worship offer.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Theme of the Week <i>Mr Farrington</i>	Class Collective Worship - Bible Story	Choral Worship <i>Mrs Barclay</i>	Year Group Collective Worship	Weekly Theme and Celebration <i>Mrs Browning</i>

Central attributes of Collective Worship

We will promote Collective Acts of Worship at William Alvey CE Primary School, which is a meaningful experience. We have four central attributes of worship which help promote a sense of occasion and reverence:

- **Gathering** – As the children gather, we have our special collective worship table with a lit candle, a Bible and cross for the Holy Trinity. As the children gather, we play contemplative music. We say our gathering prayer, or a prayer linked to one of the Christian values of the school and the Holy Trinity.
- **Engaging** – We stimulate the children through stories, hymns and singing, drama, power point presentations, pupil participation and visual aids.
- **Responding** – We have time for individual and group reflection; this may be through prayer or verbal contributions.
- **Sending** – We summarise the worship with a meaningful short message about what we have been focussing on in our Collective Worship. We then conclude the worship with the William Alvey Blessing.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Our school regularly evaluates our acts of collective worship and the impact it has on the school and its wider community. Evaluation focuses on the impact collective worship has on the spiritual flourishing of pupils and adults. This involves monitoring organised by school leaders, pupils and governors. We also seek the views of parents and representatives of the Lincolnshire Diocese, as appropriate.

Worship is independently inspected by law under Section 48 of the Education Act 2005.

Roles and Responsibilities

The Governing Body will:

- Ensure this policy is displayed on the school's website so all parents are aware that the aims of collective worship, within our school, are based on its Christian foundation and includes parents' legal right to withdraw their children from the act of worship.
- Ensure that the school fulfils its legal responsibility for collective worship.
- In conjunction with the Headteacher, monitor and evaluate the impact of collective worship within the school and make recommendations for its development in accordance with the SIAMS Inspection Framework.

The Collective Worship Leader will:

- Set the weekly Bible stories.
- Ensure acts of worship, led by different people, are observed, as part of monitoring and evaluation processes.
- Develop a pupil-led monitoring and evaluation process.
- Facilitate pupil feedback.
- Regularly monitor and evaluate outcomes.
- Ensure the impact of collective worship is reported to the governing body.
- Implement collective worship development points in relation to training and resources.

Pupils will:

- Have opportunities to plan, and lead, collective worship.
- Have opportunities to suggest new ideas for collective worship.
- Contribute to the monitoring and evaluation of collective worship in the school.
- Promote collective worship within the school.

Visitors

Visitors should understand the educational aims of collective worship at the school and the need to avoid any proselytising. Attempts to persuade pupils to adopt a particular religious or non-religious belief are not appropriate. The Headteacher, or a relevant senior member of staff, will be consulted before a visiting speaker is confirmed. Visitors should not speak about raising money for any cause(s) without the prior permission of the Headteacher, or relevant senior member of staff.

Conclusion

Collective worship is the heartbeat of our school community and provides a range of ways for pupils and adults to flourish spiritually. If you have any questions or concerns regarding collective worship in our school, please contact our Collective Worship Lead, Mrs Mitton- Rooke heidi.mitton@william-alvey.lincs.sch.uk in the first instance.