

# St. Clement's C. of E. Academy

# Learning for Life, Anchored in Christ

## Collective Worship Policy

Agreed by the Governing Body on July 9<sup>th</sup> 2022

To be reviewed Sept 2024

**ST. CLEMENT'S**  
**C. OF E. ACADEMY**

## St. Clement's C. of E. Academy Collective Worship Policy

Our vision is to inspire happy, **courageous**, independent, curious and creative, life-long learners. We aim for all to achieve their full potential, striving both academically and socially with **humility** and **dignity**.

We believe being anchored in Jesus Christ will guide us all with **hope**, **compassion** and **wisdom** in becoming successful members of a global community.

### Policy Statement:

At St. Clement's Academy, the daily act of collective worship is viewed as an integral and important part of school life. Through this and in the ethos of the school we seek to promote our vision statement. With this in mind, this policy was written in consultation with staff and discussions with children and governors, and the end result is a policy devised and influenced by the school community.

St Clement's is a VC Church of England Primary Academy. In addition to the national legal requirement that there should be daily worship, as a church school, we have a Trust Deed which states that worship should be 'in accordance with the principles and practices of the Church of England' and in accordance with the School Ethos Statement in the statutory Instrument of Government. Collective Worship takes place every day for all pupils.

For our church school, Collective Worship is a highly valued part of the school day as it is the time when we gather together to affirm what is important to us, to our school and to our world. We take care to plan our collective worship so that it is inclusive, invitational, and inspiring. In our times of collective worship together, the school affirms the claims of Christianity which underpins the values of the school, and which is the faith of some teachers and children. It provides an opportunity for pupils to worship God, whilst seeking to be relevant to, and inclusive, of all. It reflects our Anglican tradition as well as exploring with pupils and staff a variety of ways in which Christians worship God.

Acts of worship in our school will be predominantly and overtly Christian. However, as there are children from a variety of faiths and none, in addition to children from Christian homes, we do, from time to time, draw upon religious material from a variety of traditions when preparing collective worship. The original source of the material (story, song, text, information) is clearly stated, and then set in a Christian framework, and the connections with the Christian tradition are explored. For example, in discussing the Muslim celebration of Eid, it would be important to point out that this was a Muslim festival at the end of Ramadan and that Muslims would be celebrating the conclusion to the time of fasting. It would then be appropriate to make links with the feelings of thankfulness and to move onto the idea of Christian thanksgiving to God for all the good gifts. The content and language of collective worship allows for different levels of response. It invites rather than coerces.

Collective Worship is a time where we come together to share our love of God and celebrate our achievements (and sometimes failures) together.

**Legal Requirements**

We acknowledge the legal requirement stated in the 1988 Education Reform Act 6 (1) and 9 (3), which states the need for each child to attend a daily act of worship either as a whole school, class or group. Parents have the legal right to withdraw their children from the act of worship either partially or wholly. Any parents wishing to do so should contact the Head teacher. Teachers also have the right to withdraw from leading and taking part in worship.

**Aims of Collective Worship at St Clements Academy:**

Collective worship in our school influences the way that we live together as a community and before God. Members of the community are challenged to think, act and live differently as a result of these times together.

As a school community, we decided that Collective Worship at our school offers the opportunity for all:

|             |   |
|-------------|---|
| Spiritual   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>to enjoy being in the presence of God and to explore a relationship with God</li> <li>to offer adoration, praise and thanksgiving to God</li> <li>to explore personal belief and experience a sense of wonder.</li> <li>to feel a sense of belonging to a group that shares and celebrates together, as well as being thoughtful or sad together</li> <li>to experience a feeling of connectedness to others in the world and a sense of responsibility towards them</li> <li>to celebrate diversity of faith and relate it to our own lives as well as to Biblical references;</li> <li>to reflect upon ourselves and our lives as seen as part of a bigger picture</li> <li>to wonder</li> <li>to gain inspiration</li> <li>to receive a challenge to live differently</li> <li>to rejoice in being unique and precious</li> </ul> |
| Educational | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>to learn about different ways of worshipping and about imagery and symbolism</li> <li>to participate in marking important features of the church calendar</li> <li>to explore the Christian values of the school; hope, humility, courage, compassion, forgiveness and service</li> <li>to use stillness and quietness</li> <li>to celebrate gifts, talents and achievements</li> <li>to consider spiritual questions raised in the rest of the curriculum</li> </ul>  |

In satisfying these aims the following principles are also observed:

|           |   |
|-----------|---|
| Inclusive | <p>... whatever the age, aptitude or background of school community members</p> <p>... where the integrity of each is respected</p> <p>... drawing upon the leadership expertise of many adults and pupils</p> <p>... enabling children to explore and evaluate their beliefs</p> <p>... sharing worship from time to time with parents, governors and members of the local community</p> |
|-----------|---|

## Organisation

|           | Worship Leader                             | Type of worship   | Description of content  | Group   |
|-----------|--|---|---|---|
| Monday    | HT/ DHT                                    | Celebration Assembly / Values (half termly)                 | <b>Let your light shine before others- <u>Matthew 5:15-16</u></b><br>Star pupils, Kindness, attendance, punctuality<br>The first Monday of each half term will introduce the term's new value focus.  | whole school  |
| Tuesday   | DHT/AHT                                    | Cosmic awards–celebration of gifts and talents              | <b>Life in all it's fullness- John 10:10</b><br>KS1/ KS2 alternate-<br>Star writer, number wizard, birthdays, star speller, handwriting awards, cosmic cards, values award, extra curricular / home awards  | KS1/ KS2 alternate in class worship linked to value of the term |
| Wednesday | teachers and / or children and/or visitors | Liturgy   | <b>"So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ." Romans 10:17</b><br>Class or teacher led presentation of Bible / religious stories or concepts linked to current theme/ special date/ festival or celebration/ value  | whole school  |
| Thursday  | Clergy or governor/ visitors/ Unicef       | Liturgy   | <b>"Give ear and hear my voice, Listen and hear my words." Isaiah 28:23</b><br>Clergy/ governor/visitor led worship linked to school theme/values (whole school)  | whole school  |
| Friday    | Miss Shryane                               | Praise and reflection<br>Sharing/ celebration (half termly) | <b>"Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord" <u>Ephesians 5:19.</u></b><br>Hymns to support school values and ethos, praise God and/or linked to up-coming festivals and celebrations.<br>Special sharing/presentation each half term i.e. Enrichment sharing/ Spring, Summer, Christmas concerts | whole school  |

The assembly/worship should last approximately 20 minutes. The hall will be set up by the Worship Committee, as will the reflection table with the cross, candles and liturgical colour as a focus for reflection. Each class brings their class candle to the hall with them and worship lead will light and place the candle on the reflection table to show the class is present to share in worship.

Class/school prayers are displayed in all classrooms and are said mornings, lunchtime and at end of day by each class with a focus on the class reflection area. There is a half termly prayer based on the values which will sit on the reflection table. Each class has a wooden cross, a coloured candle, a statue of Jesus and a bible which should be the only items present on the reflection table. Each class has also been given a large white cloth as well as purple and green runners show the liturgical season.

Teachers are responsible for the upkeep of their reflection items.

Children are invited to take part in creative prayer both in classes and in the reflection spaces around school. This will sometimes be linked to a specific theme/ celebration and daily as 'thank you, sorry and please prayers'.

## Planning

**Long term planning:** The Worship Committee, are involved in planning a long term overview, including Bible stories, themes and values as well as relevant festivals throughout the year.

**Medium term planning:** Each term an overview is provided for each member of staff as well as the Worship Committee and the local Clergy and link governor. This contains details of the weekly themes, Clergy involvement, staff led worship and class assembly. There is also a termly overview on display in staffroom. This is completed by the Collective Worship leader.

**Short term planning:** Those leading a worship, not including the clergy who have their own planning criteria, are asked to plan their act of worship in as much detail as they would any other learning activity. When leading worship, staff should relate their worship to the theme. The themes chosen are broad enough to allow all those leading worship to approach the theme from their own perspective. This will mean that by the end of the week the pupils will have had the opportunity to reflect on the theme from a variety of viewpoints. On occasions it is recognised that those leading worship may feel that they need to respond to local or national events. Staff are also asked to think about the involvement of children in their worship.

**Involvement of Children:** The Worship Committee are a group of volunteers who meet with the HT on a weekly basis to discuss music choices and evaluate worship delivered. They also meet up on a termly basis to plan the themes and linked stories guided by HT and Clergy/ linked governors. Daily, they set up the hall and seating, as well as the reflection table and IT needs. They lead in greetings, prayers, ICT throughout and the sending at the end of reflection. They also plan and deliver their own worship at least once every half term The group are positioned throughout the school on entry to worship to welcome the rest of the school and offer the Peace of the Lord, giving a sense of belonging and inclusivity to all. All pupils and staff are invited to write prayers and reflections to share in worship and regularly nominate others for acts of kindness and compassion. Pupils and staff are also given opportunities to reflect throughout the day/ week/half term, on content of worship and share thoughts, ideas, comments on our 'Reflection Board' that can be found outside the hall.

**Class assemblies:** These will be linked to the theme or a relevant festival/celebration. They should be child led where possible and the children should also be involved in the planning of the assembly. As a school community we are aware that these assemblies are a chance for children to build their confidence in speaking and presenting to a larger audience. For that reason we expect that class assemblies will, where appropriate, include ; drama, music, high quality resources, relate to the Bible/Holy book, use microphones when necessary so children can be heard, be well prepared, captivate and enthral the audience and be communicated clearly.

**Content:** Within our collective worship we provide a wide variety of stimuli to help pupils to reflect upon and respond to the central theme. These include: stories, drama, music, questions, reflection, partner talk, art, visuals and prayer.

As we are an Anglican school we reflect aspects of Anglican worship in the following ways: We use the Bible as a source of Christian teaching and draw upon the teachings of Jesus, exploring the relevance of His teaching in today's world. We follow the cycle of the Anglican year; Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter and Pentecost and some saints' days.

We use liturgical colours for our worship focus.

We use Christian symbols and artefacts, exploring their meaning for Christians.

Anglican prayers we use include The Lord's Prayer.

Our worship follows a liturgical pattern eg Gathering .. Engaging ... Responding... Sending

Members of the school community share the Peace

Reflection and silence are used

Using Anglican sentences and responses (eg The Lord be with you ... and also with you)

| Liturgical colour | Period/ festival   |
|-------------------|--|
| Green             | Ordinary time<br>Day after Presentation until Shrove Tuesday<br>Day after Pentecost until Advent |
| Purple            | Advent & Lent  |
| White             | Day after Easter day until Pentecost   |
| Red               | Holy week  |

**Record Keeping, Evaluation and Monitoring:** The governors hold overall responsibility for ensuring that the legal requirements for worship are met, but the head teacher has the statutory accountability for ensuring that collective worship takes place. Support/training is encouraged and available for those who wish to lead acts of worship. Governors monitor the provision of collective worship, by asking a representative to attend a session per term and then feeding back to the governing body. Some worships are led by a member of the Governing body.

Pupils evaluate the effectiveness/impact of Collective Worship by comments made on the reflection board throughout the term and the Worship Committee feedback comments in weekly meetings with HT. Governors ensure that collective worship is reviewed on a regular basis.

### Visits and visitors

As part of the curriculum, St Clement's Academy ensures that appropriate visits are made available for the children in order for them to have first-hand experiences and gain a greater understanding of a range of places of worship.

Visitors to the school are welcomed and enabled to share their experiences and knowledge – their role is to educate, not to evangelise.

Aston Parish Church is our most frequently used resource, with the whole school attending and contributing towards annual Harvest, Christmas, Easter and end of year services.

### Covid-19

If the school is closed to most pupils, elements of worship will be shared weekly on the school blog with links on all school's social media platforms. For pupils in school, there will be a rota of linked themes and stories for class teachers to deliver to pupils in their bubbles.

During periods of social distancing, worship will be electronically delivered via TEAMS. Staff should endeavour to deliver a 'live' worship and send out a Teams invite to all classes for 9.00am start time. All classes must ensure they have a device that allows them to see, hear and contribute, having their cameras on so the worship can be as interactive as possible. All microphones should stay on mute unless interacting with the worship lead. Power point presentations, or clips used for known 'sensitive issues' should be checked by a member of SLT prior to delivery. There are 'pop up' display/ reflection areas in the hall to encourage reflection and thought for all pupils during break times.