



**Ashton St. Peter's Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School
Diocese of St. Albans**

**Collective Worship
Ratified December 2015
Update December 2016**

Legal Requirement

Education law requires daily collective worship to be provided for all pupils. Collective worship should be "wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian nature". Parents have the right to withdraw their children from collective worship.

From the Trust deed

Ashton St Peter's VA School aims to serve its community by providing an education of the highest quality within the context of Christian belief and practice. It encourages an understanding of the meaning and significance of faith and promotes Christian values through the experience it offers to all its pupils. Our Trust deed states that religious instruction shall be given in accordance with the doctrines, rites and practices of the Church of England.

Aim

The aim of Collective Worship at Ashton St Peter's is to introduce pupils to worship in a manner appropriate to their age, aptitude and family background, drawing primarily upon the riches of the Anglican tradition, as well as other Christian traditions.

Ashton St Peter's respects the individuality and uniqueness of every pupil. It is not the school's purpose to actively evangelise, but we aim to encourage those participating in any act of worship to feel part of the Christian faith community, and to feel valued and included. Collective Worship is something we do together whilst embracing a great variety of faith commitment.

Collective Worship should also:

- be daily for all children
- be truly worship
- involve the children regularly
- be monitored by the staff
- actively engage the children
- be suitable for all abilities
- be age appropriate
- be appropriate to the background of the children
- involve the community but still follow the school ethos
- allow time for reflection
- provide a learning opportunity which impacts on the children's lives

The content of Collective Worship

- Collective Worship will follow Christian beliefs. Other religions will be treated with respect but will not provide the basis of worship.
- Collective Worship takes place daily, although the actual time may vary as circumstances require.
- Collective Worship usually involves the whole school joining together; however individual classes will hold their own acts of worship on a weekly basis. Children are not expected to be passive

but encouraged to be active by participating in appropriate ways.

- Themes for Collective Worship will be chosen to reflect a wide variety of Christian beliefs and values. They may be seasonal or follow themes related to a continuing story or the exploration of particular religious practices. The Diocesan Collective Worship Themes document is loosely followed. In addition, each month a different value will be introduced and developed, illustrated by stories from real life and the bible. Values themes in particular are linked to further work within curriculum time and appropriate behaviour recognised on our values tree display.
- When appropriate, Collective Worship will include and reflect any local, national or world event of which the children may be aware, and offer appropriate worship in response. There is room for spontaneity.
- Whilst most acts of Collective Worship will be held in the school building, an Act of Worship will be held half-termly and usually on the last day of term, at The Priory Church of St Peter in Dunstable.
- The Rector of Dunstable Team Ministry and other members of the Team on occasions, lead Collective Worship. The Rector also assists at our end of term services in the Priory Church.
- Ministers from other Christian denominations are also invited to take Collective Worship. From time to time it may be appropriate for visitors representing charities, organisations or projects to lead, or contribute to Collective Worship.
- Parents, Governors and friends are invited to attend special occasions such as Harvest and are welcomed to the end of term services at the Priory Church.
- Collective Worship is non-curriculum time and should connect with, and reinforce the curriculum, but not be constrained by it.

The style of Collective Worship

- Collective Worship is an opportunity for children to explore the spiritual and moral dimension of their world.
- Collective Worship will include quiet reflection as well as words, stories, pictures and symbols, prayers and hymns, songs and music. There will be opportunities for questions and answers - and sometimes the recognition that there are no answers.
- Time may be included for talking partner activities and discussion of the current topic.
- There will be expressions of thankfulness, praise and joy. Feelings of sadness and loss will be included when appropriate.
- Collective Worship should allow ethical and moral questions to be explored but never be a time simply for corporate discipline.
- Collective Worship provides opportunities for corporate information sharing. Care will be taken to differentiate between worship and notices.
- Every act of Collective Worship should have a clear beginning, shape and ending.

Organisation of worship

Monday	9.10am	Values theme with story from real life	Headteacher
Tuesday	9.10am	Class collective worship	Teacher
Wednesday	9.10am	Friendship assembly - monthly Children leading worship- monthly Christian value theme- fortnightly	Teacher
Thursday	9.10am	Singing assembly	Deputy Headteacher Teacher
Friday	9.10am	Bible/church season theme	Senior Teacher

Collective Worship begins with pupils entering the hall quietly while appropriate music is played. Usually at the front, there will be a picture on the OHP or another focus and a table draped in a cloth in the church's seasonal colour with a candle on it. Worship begins with a prayer as the candle is lit. The children offer each other the sign of peace. The content and presentation will vary depending on the leader and the occasion, but there will usually be a hymn or song, a story or reading and at least one

prayer. Worship ends with a prayer as the candle is snuffed and pupils are encouraged to leave the hall quietly.

Older pupils set up the hall for Collective Worship and operate the Lap-Top computer and CD player during assembly. A pupil will be chosen to light and snuff the candle each time and lead the school in prayer. Sometimes a group or class may lead or contribute to worship, especially for Harvest and at the end of term services in the Priory Church. Contributions may be in the form of drama, playing or singing, reading bible stories or their own writing and leading the prayers. All pupils will have the opportunity to be involved in this way during their time at Ashton St Peter's.

Friendship Assembly is linked to the value of the month and may vary from the rest of the week's worship as this is the time when pupils, in groups or as individuals, may share their talents to perform dance, drama or music that they have previously rehearsed. Pupils' achievements, certificates and awards may also be acknowledged and presented. Prayers about friendship are said together.

During our singing assembly on a Thursday at 9.10am, traditional and more modern hymns and songs are introduced and learned during worship. They are chosen to be relevant to the church calendar and the current value or theme.

Role of clergy

In an official capacity, the Rector of the Team Ministry in Dunstable is an ex-officio member of the governing body. The role itself provides a significant link between Church and School on a formal basis, but there is the more important role of the listening ear, teacher, pastor, friend and RE guide which gives added strength to the whole school community.

This special relationship allows the children to get to know the Rector (and the other team members) through Collective Worship, and sometimes through involvement in class work, educational visits to the team churches and special events in the life of the school. Through some of these activities, the clergy may also get to know those pupils and families who are not regular churchgoers.

Monitoring and evaluation

The Head Teacher and Senior Teachers keep a record of worship they have led and a record of assembly themes and resources used is kept in a file in the staff room. The staff will review Collective Worship once a term. The Governing Body's RE working party will discuss Collective Worship within their meetings and observe implementation as part of their monitoring role. The Collective Worship policy will be reviewed regularly by the Governing Body.

Review Procedures

The School's policy will be reviewed when:

- Annually December 2016
- The School wishes to review the policy.
- If amendments are required by the LA

Ratified by:

Date: December 2015

Chair of Governors