



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

### **Collective Worship Ratified September 2023 Update September 2024**

Our children will be grounded in God's Word. We maintain a Christian family focus aiming to support parents in raising their children as mature Christian citizens, enabling them to handle life's challenges with courage and perseverance. We provide high quality learning preparing children to flourish academically and spiritually fulfilling their God-given potential.

#### **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 C of E Primary 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.
- School values explored in collective worship and rooted in our school vision
- Collective Worship usually involves the whole school joining together; however individual classes may hold their own acts of worship.
- 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 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	Values	Assistant Headteacher
Tuesday	Achievement linked to Values Values Role Model of the week	Senior Teacher
Wednesday	Worship Through Music	Deputy Headteacher
Thursday	Bible Story/Church Season theme	Teacher

	The Worship Group - Children leading worship (Monthly)	
Friday	Academic and behaviour achievements	Headteacher

Collective Worship begins with pupils entering the hall quietly while appropriate music is played. Usually at the front, there will be an image displayed, or another focus, and a table draped in a cloth in the church's seasonal colour. Worship begins with a prayer as the candle is lit by a child. The children offer each other the sign of peace. The content and presentation will vary depending on the leader and the occasion. All worshippers share a hymn or song, a story or reading and a prayer. Worship ends with a prayer as the candle is snuffed.

During Collective Worship older pupils operate the computer and music system.

The Worship Group and other groups of pupils lead or contribute to worship and at the end of term services in the Priory Church. All pupils will have the opportunity to be involved in this way during their time at Ashton St Peter's.

Achievement/Values Worship is linked to the value of the month and may vary from the rest of the week's worship. Pupils' achievements are acknowledged and shared.

During our Worship through Music, traditional and more modern hymns and songs are introduced and shared 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 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 September 2024
- The School wishes to review the policy.
- If amendments are required by the LA

Ratified by: *David Bower*  
Headteacher

Date: September 2023