



Adlington St. Paul's Church of England Primary School



Collective Worship Policy

Learning Together Following Jesus

Christian values are the heartbeat of our school. Seeking to be respectful, responsible and empowering global citizens, we follow the words of St Paul, '*Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart.*' In this context, rejoicing in Jesus' love and compassion for all, we pursue excellence as we celebrate everyone's uniqueness in a broad, rich and balanced curriculum.

Our 12 Christian Values are central to Collective Worship here at St. Paul's.



As a school community we believe worship to be a special act or occasion with the purpose of connecting with God. Teachers, children and families at school value the special dimension worship brings to church school life. Collective worship includes all members of the school community coming together to participate actively in a daily act of worship. Our worship is based around the school's Christian Values; teaching of Christ and the traditions of the Church of England.

The Place of Collective Worship at Adlington St. Paul's Church of England Primary School

Worship in this school is more than just a legal requirement. It is an integral part of school life and central to the Anglican tradition, with Governors and Staff seeing it as an essential part of all pupils' education. We see worship as the stimulus for the whole life of the school. By the values and beliefs proclaimed in hymns, prayers and story and by the atmosphere created, we hope to stimulate and reinforce the Christian values which the school upholds, inform its whole curriculum and set the tone of its pastoral relationships. We see worship as contributing to the pupils' education by developing their knowledge and understanding of the Christian Faith but also about many other areas of life. Through their participation, we hope that pupils will develop skills and confidence and be helped to grow spiritually and morally. Spiritual development for each individual member of the school community is important, and we focus on relationships with ourselves, relationships with others and relationships with God. Whatever approaches, we expect that pupils will be introduced to the key beliefs and aspects of the Christian Faith, and be helped to explore them.

These will include:

1. The nature of God, as Father, Son and Holy Spirit
2. The nature of Human beings as children of God, part of his creation and though sinful, destined for eternal life.
3. Jesus as the Son of God who, through his life, death and resurrection, broke the power of evil and restored humanity's relationship with God.
4. The central values of forgiveness, selfless love, redemption, goodness, compassion and charity.
5. The central place of the Bible as the source of knowledge about God and Jesus and as a source of inspiration and guidance.

6. The importance of prayer
7. The central symbols of Christianity
8. The cycle of the Church Year.

Aims and Objectives

1. To create an atmosphere in which children and adults have the opportunity to worship
 - i) A variety of times and venues used contributes positively to the atmosphere of worship.
 - ii) The venue has been well prepared.
 - iii) Staffing arrangements and groupings provide consistency and promote continuity.
2. To develop knowledge and understanding of the Christian Faith.
 - i) Help pupils understand the nature of God as revealed in Jesus.
 - ii) Learn about the place and significance of the Bible.
 - iii) Celebrate the festivals of the Church Year.
 - iv) Show that God is concerned with all areas of life.
3. To develop links with St Paul's Church and introduce pupils to the worship heritage of the Church of England.
 - i) Learn important and famous prayers of Christianity.
 - ii) Gain a repertoire of prayers to take in adult life.
 - iii) Experience different forms of Christian worship and worship material.
4. Continue to develop links with St Paul's Church and share in Parish Worship i.e. Church Festivals and Celebrations.
5. To contribute to the spiritual and moral development of pupils.
 - i) Develop the ability to be still and reflective and use silence creatively.
 - ii) Explore all that is of value in life – individual values, values of school, values of life, truth, love, goodness, beauty.
 - iii) Explore and reflect on moral issues and concerns. Help pupils to deepen their awareness of the needs of others.
 - iv) Understand what worship is and what people do when they worship.
 - v) Worship is always inviting, never coercing, remembering that pupils will be at different stages of spiritual development and that they should be able to respond and participate at their own level.

Collective Worship at Adlington St. Paul's

At St. Paul's, we have a long-term Collective Worship plan highlighting the key themes that will be delivered through daily acts of Collective worship. This plan is flexible and adapts to current local, national and global events that will need to be shared and developed with the children and the school community.

An act of Collective Worship takes place every day. These can be as a whole school community in the hall or St. Paul's church or in classrooms led by class teachers or through pre-recorded high-quality videos. Each term there are also acts of Collective Worship that take place outside.

Our weekly worship focuses on our Christian Values, with a particular focus on our chosen half termly Christian Value. These weekly worship's follow Roots and Fruits, our chosen Collective Worship resource that mirrors our Christian Values and key events in the church calendar.

We also have weekly Collective Worship based around local, national, and global events and key figures following Picture News resources.

God's Big Story is central to our RE curriculum and each week we have a Collective Worship that allows us to explore and follow the themes in God's Big Story.

At St. Paul's, we also have a weekly whole school celebration worship giving thanks to God for our many achievements and blessings. This is an opportunity to celebrate not only school-based achievements but extracurricular achievements from within the wider school community.

Our Ethos group consists of Year 5 and Year 6 pupils, and they play an active part in our Collective Worship. Our Ethos group, plan, lead and deliver whole school collective worship and also half termly Sunday family services at St. Paul's Church.

As well as the Ethos group, our classes take part in leading Collective Worship throughout the school year linked to RE topics or events in the church calendar such as Harvest, Christmas and Easter.

We have strong links with our church, St. Paul's, clergy lead school worship on a weekly basis in church and also lead worship in church linked to key events in the church calendar. As a school, we also celebrate the Eucharist in church at regular points throughout the academic year. We actively encourage the exploration of Confirmation in the Christian Family for Y6 children.

To enhance the worship, introductory music is played. Artefacts and visual aids are also used when appropriate. We aim to give opportunities for quiet reflection and situations where thoughtful responses can be elicited.

Worship is evaluated by staff, pupils and when appropriate parents, on a regular basis.

Policy Monitoring and Review

This policy is monitored by the Collective Worship Leaders and is evaluated and reviewed by the whole school staff and Governors every three years.

Parental Rights of Withdrawal in a Voluntary Aided Academy

Parents may withdraw their children from Religious Education/Worship as they may in any school. The Worship and Religious Education provided by our school is in accordance with the Church of England Foundation. This foundation is also reflected in the curriculum and the whole life of the school community. Since the conduct of the school as a whole reflects the Church of England ethos, removal of pupils from Worship and/or Religious Education (as parents are legally entitled to do) cannot insulate them from the religious life of the school. If a request for a withdrawal is made, the head-teacher will explore the reasons for the request and seek to arrive at an accommodation.

Signed: Mrs J. Burger

Headteacher

Date: September 2021

Review Date: September 2024