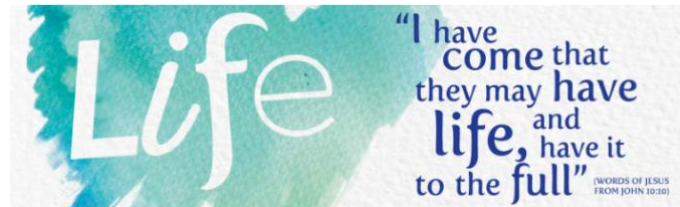


St Alban's C of E Academy



Collective Worship Policy

At St Alban's C of E Academy, we empower each child to learn enthusiastically, grow independently and explore inquisitively to fulfil their God given potential.



Worship is...

***Giving honour and reverence to a supreme being.
Christian worship is concerned with bringing praise, prayer,
thanksgiving and adoration to God.***

It is an activity of response: in words, actions and thoughts.

Mission statement

Collective worship plays a central part in the life of St Alban's C of E Academy. Collective worship is a means by which the school's Christian vision is expressed (Strand 6 SIAMS 2018). As an expression of the Christian vision, ethos and spiritual life of the school/academy it offers the whole school community opportunities to experience/participate in/take responsibility for the living expression of Christian worship, valued and honoured through the school's/academies Anglican Foundation. This is set within the context of the corporate community of our school and its historic partnership with St Alban's C of E Church. We affirm every individual's unique contribution, regardless of age, gender, sexuality, ability, background or religion.

Legal requirements:

Trust Deed

Our daily act of collective worship is in accordance with the Trust Deed of the school/academy. This requires worship to be consistent with the faith, principles and practices of the Church of England.

DfES guidance

We also take into account DfES legislation. The following link will take you to the current legislation. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/collective-worship-in-schools>

1988 Education Act

We also take into account the 1988 Education that states,

*‘.....all pupils in attendance at a maintained school **shall in each school day** take part in an act of collective worship’,*

And, that this should be,

‘.....mainly of a broadly Christian character’

Worship and assemblies

Some schools have a celebration assembly to celebrate pupil’s achievements. Care should be taken that this is still regarded as an act of worship through saying prayer at the end of the celebration to thank God for pupil’s achievements and successes. Here at St Alban’s C of E Academy we have the following organisation, content & structure.

We have a collective worship five days a week at the end of the school day between 2:50pm and 3:10pm. Our worship schedule is as follows:

Monday – Bible story linked to Christian Values, Significant Leaders in our World led or an outside visitor

Tuesday – Vicar lead worship – Bible Story linked to Christian Values and Anglican Church Calendar

Wednesday – Class worship – Values for Life – Picture News – Worldviews Celebration

Thursday – Songs of Praise

Friday –of Thanks for pupil’s achievements and successes.

Inclusive, Invitational, and Inspiring Inclusive:

Worship is collective in that it involves meeting, exploring, questioning, and responding to others and, for some, to God. In our Church school our pupils, their families and other adults can expect to encounter worship that is inclusive of, and fully accessible to, all. Many pupils and staff in our school will come from homes of different faith backgrounds as well as of no faith background. Moreover, many pupils will naturally be at different stages of their spiritual journey during their time in school. Pupils will be given the opportunity to think and ask questions. There will be space to consent, and dissent: to participate and to stand back; and to consider. It is an expectation that care will be taken to ensure that the language used by those facilitating worship avoids assuming faith in all those participating, listening, and watching.

Collective worship should not be ‘done to’ but will involve meaningful contributions from the whole school community, including pupils. It is recognised that pupils will bring their own experience to worship.

Inclusion requires pupil involvement in planning, leading and the evaluation of worship. Although part of a national legislative framework, collective worship in our Church school

grows out of the local context and out of pupils' experience, including their cultural backgrounds.

Invitational: Parents, pupils and adults can expect to encounter worship that is consistently invitational. There should be no compulsion to 'do anything'. Rather, worship should provide the opportunity to engage whilst allowing the freedom of those of different faiths and those who profess no religious faith to be present and to engage with integrity. The metaphor of 'warm fires and open doors³' captures this idea. The warmth of the fire derives from the clarity and authenticity of the Christian message at its heart. There is no value to an encounter with a watered down, lowest common denominator version of faith. Importantly the door is open, all are welcome to come in and sit as near or as far away from the fire as they feel comfortable. Pupils and adults should always only be invited to pray if they wish to do so and should be invited to pray in their own way. Prayer should always be accompanied by the option to reflect.

Music and liturgies used in worship should reflect the best of traditional and modern Anglican worship, it should connect with the theme and explore the sacred to educate and engage. Music used should reflect the diverse worship experience of the wider Christian community.

Care should be taken with the music and liturgy: the traditional and modern riches of Christian hymnody and music will be drawn upon, but schools should think about what is most appropriate, at a given time, for the spiritual life of their community.

Inspiring: Pupils and adults can expect the worship they encounter in a Church school to be inspirational. Worship should be formational and transformational: it should enable pupils and adults to ask big questions about who we are and why we do what we do. It should motivate pupils and adults into action, into thinking differently, and into reflecting on their and the wider community's behaviour and actions. As a result of inspirational collective worship, they should be inspired to become courageous advocates of causes. It should encourage them to think searchingly about their faith, beliefs and/or philosophical convictions.

There will always be those who are uncomfortable to enter through this open door of worship in our schools and so the Church of England recognises the right of withdrawal from collective worship for those parents or pupils⁵ who wish to exercise this option. This, and how to exercise this choice, should be explained fully in the school's collective worship policy and referenced on the school's website.

Children Leading Worship

At St Albans's C of E Academy children leading worship is a central part of what we do as a school. The children will have the following responsibilities:

Before Collective Worship	During Collective Worship	After Collective Worship
Setting up	Gathering	Clearing up

<p>The children will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Selecting and setting up CD • Putting out chairs • Prepare the worship table 	<p>The children will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Saying a welcoming sentence. • Organise school notices. 	<p>The children will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hold doors open for those leaving. • Put away equipment and chairs. • Turn off candles.
<p>Welcoming</p> <p>The children will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greet the other children at door • Meet visitors at main entrance (and help them to set up) 	<p>Engaging</p> <p>The children will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduce a visitor or the storyteller • Take part in Drama activities such as Open the Book. • Support teachers with music, video clips and PowerPoint slides. 	<p>Recording</p> <p>The children will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Record a logbook detailing what the school had learnt about in Collective Worship. • Ask the visitor or the person leading worship to sign the logbook to say that it is a true representation of what they have learnt.
<p>Planning</p> <p>The children will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Choose music and songs to be sung in worship that link to our theme. • Write their own prayers to share at the end of worship. 	<p>Responding</p> <p>The children will have the opportunity to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ask and answer questions. • Read or saying prayers. • Leading actions or signing to songs. 	<p>Evaluating</p> <p>The children will have the opportunity to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use an evaluation grid. • Work together to look at evaluations and plan the next steps for Collective Worship. • Share evaluation findings with Trust Directors/CEO and school SLT.
	<p>Sending</p> <p>The children will have the opportunity to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Switch off the candles. • Saying the 'Grace' or other closing prayer 	

Format taken from 'Children leading worship' by Helen Matter.

Planning of worship

At St Alban's when planning worship, we plan for the following content. Gather, Learning, Respond and Send. Collective worship uses an approach of learning, reflecting, and responding to a theme using the idea of windows, mirrors, and doors:

- Windows - learning about an area or subject

- Mirrors - reflecting what the learning means to them
- Doors - responding to the ideas by changing their thoughts/ideas/lives, sometimes through prayer.

The worship leader will meet with worship ambassadors once every two weeks to discuss and plan up and coming worships. Termly ambassadors will meet with the reverend and church clergy to discuss and plan up and coming worships.

Gather

During the gathering music will be played on entrance to the hall. A question, visual stimulus or hook will be placed at the front or on the screen to captivate and ignite children's thinking about the forthcoming worship. After all children have entered the hall the Trinitarian candle will be lit. As the candle is lit, children will respond with the opening response 'We light this candle in the name of God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit'.

Learning

To engage and learn about an area, subject, theme, or value children will respond to the hook used during the gathering. To create the 'sacred space' and engage pupils with the value or theme of the worship a picture, video, object, game, drama or story will be used. Children will see through the window and identify what they think they are learning about.

The Biblical content will be shared in an inspiring way. After, children will look at the mirror of the theme, subject, message, or value and reflect what the learning means to them. They will look in the mirror to make a connection with the stimulus so that they can think. This will allow them to make links with it so that it enables them to relate how the actions of the believer relate to the beliefs.

Children will look at the door of opportunity when learning about an area, theme, value or significant figure. Children will explore the text and context. They will reflect and relate to the stimulus engaged with. Children will think about how they can apply the belief or newfound knowledge to what they see in their life or the world around them.

Responding

Responding (Reflection/Prayer): This section ensures that the legal requirements for collective worship are met. In this part of our worship children and adults are being given the opportunity to reflect. Opportunity to reflect may be provided while a picture is displayed, music played, or a candle burns. Or it could be a prayer, read, extemporary, interactive. In this section we always phrase this section so that prayer is an invitation, not a command. (See section 1: Collective worship in a Church of England school for further guidance). We also offer both reflection and prayer, which ensures that all pupils should be able to respond in a way that is comfortable for them!

Sending

When we close worship children may be asked to give a response, complete a challenge, think of a thought, picture a Bible verse, think about a question on the screen. Children will leave the hall listening to music so that they can think about the message or theme of the worship.

Section 48 Statutory Inspection of Anglican & Methodist Schools (SIAMS)

All church schools, whether they are Voluntary Aided (VA), Voluntary Controlled (VC) or Foundation (F) will be inspected on collective worship and the impact this has on the whole school community (Strand 6 of the SIAMS 2018 schedule). The core question of this strand is, **the ways in which collective worship is an expression of the school's Christian vision.** Here at St Alban's C of E Academy this inspection will evaluate the school's/academies collective worship on the following:

- that it is inclusive, invitational, and inspiring
- offers the opportunity, without compulsion, to all pupils and adults to grow spiritually through experiences of prayer, stillness, worship, and reflection
- enables all pupils and adults to appreciate that Christians worship in different ways, for example using music, silence, story, prayer, reflection, the varied liturgical and other traditions of Anglican/Methodist worship, festivals and, where appropriate, the Eucharist.
- helps pupils and adults to appreciate the relevance of faith in today's world, to encounter the teachings of Jesus and the Bible and to develop their understanding of the Christian belief in the Trinitarian nature of God and its language.
- enables pupils as well as adults to engage in the planning, leading and evaluation of collective worship in ways that lead to improving practice. Leaders of worship, including clergy, have access to regular training.
- encourages local church community partnerships to support the school effectively in developing its provision for collective worship.

The right of withdrawal

We recognise the right of withdrawal from worship for pupils at the request of parents and for staff, but encourage discussion with the relevant individuals to ensure that there is understanding of the aims and objectives of worship, and strategies for minimising the disruption caused by any withdrawals.

Aims of worship

The gathering of pupils each day incorporates collective worship. Worship will be:

- Appropriate to the age, aptitude, and family background of pupils.

- Provided in a variety of settings, groupings, and timings, with a variety of leaders whole school, class, key stage.
- This can happen as a whole school body, year group or key stage.

Worship should provide opportunities to:

- enhance the spiritual development and response of pupils
- foster reflection, meditation, prayer and silence
- create an atmosphere in which God is both normal and natural
- foster a reverential attitude to God
- foster empathy and imagination, enabling pupils to participate in a variety of ways
- actively involve pupils in the delivery of worship in creative and imaginative ways (reading, poetry, drama, dance, quiet / silent reflection, prayer, singing)
- explore and enjoy praise, prayer and the rituals of Christianity (the Anglican tradition in particular)
- affirm the Christian faith and the central Christian status of Jesus as the Son of God
- affirm the Christian belief in the Trinity and explore the meaning of each person of the Trinity
- explore Eucharistic worship (where appropriate) within the Anglican tradition taught Eucharist in worship by Reverend, observation of it, taking part but receiving a blessing, taught in RE lessons.
- enable pupils to reflect on the experiences of Christian adherents
- foster and value a search for a faith to live by
- explore the schools/academies Christian values to deepen pupils understanding of them and how they relate to the school/academy, local community and wider world
- learn about and reflect upon Christian teaching, Biblical material and Christian festivals, in a way that relates to the pupils' experience and to living together in community
- worship together rather than apart
- provide an evocative setting for worship that fosters spiritual growth and reflection
- experience a broad spectrum of Christian tradition (various expressions of worship)
- inspire pupils to explore further their own faith and tradition
- encourage pupils and staff to plan, participate and lead in worship
- develop a sense of community and shared values
- consider the needs of others and to foster charitable works
- celebrate the highest achievements of the human spirit
- celebrate achievements of members of the school in every aspect of school life
- foster a thought-provoking atmosphere allowing for spiritual reflection and response
- make regular use of local church buildings for worship

Worship both reflects and nurtures the vision and values of the school. It encompasses all aspects of school life and all areas of the curriculum so that every member of staff and every pupil may feel involved. School worship at St Alban's C of E Academy helps develop the feeling of belonging to a community which is essential for personal development and spiritual growth.

Worship reflects fundamental Christian Values especially the values our school have adopted across the school, specifically:

Perseverance – “ I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.”
Philippians 4:13

Justice- “ Learn to do right, seek justice.” Isaiah 1:17

Thankfulness – “ Always be thankful.” 1 Thessalonians 5:16

Trust- “My God is my strength in whom I trust.” Psalms 18:2

Friendship- “ Encourage one another and build each other up.”
1 Thessalonians 5:11

Forgiveness – “ Just as the Lord has forgiven, so you must also forgive others.”



Other opportunities that worship can offer are:

- celebrate the beliefs and cultures of others particularly those represented in our school/academy
- celebrate of achievements of members of the school/academy’s community
- reinforce school expectations, good behaviour, and school/academies routines.
- share local school/academies and community information

Management of worship

Ultimately the responsibility for collective worship lies with the Head of School and the PCAF. However, the role of planning, resourcing, managing, and evaluating worship has been delegated to head of school , worship leader and worship ambassadors. In addition, all teachers in our church school are ‘spiritual leaders’ and have a responsibility to help pupils develop spiritual awareness.

The head of school, deputy head teacher, phase leader or worship leader will deliver worship on a Monday. On occasions on a Monday, ‘Open the Book’ or ‘ Visitor’ will lead worship, but this worship will be introduced by a member of staff. Tuesday worship will be led by our local reverend. Class Teachers take responsibility for Wednesday’s ‘Global Views and World Views’ class worships using Picture News. Thursday’s Song of Praise worship will be led by the music leader. The head of school, deputy head teacher or phase leader will undertake worship on a Friday. This will be our celebration of thanks for our achievements and success worship.

There will be visitors who may also lead a worship, but these will always be introduced by a member of staff. Church services are held at St Alban’s C of E Church for key Christian celebrations.

Resourcing and planning worship

Worship should be adequately resourced to ensure that it is regarded as an important part of school life. Pupils are encouraged and provided opportunities to plan acts of worship as a whole school, year group, key stage, or class, so that they have ownership of it.

School worship ambassadors will meet with worship leader every two weeks and the Vicar each term to help plan worships.

In planning worship, we follow a mix of 'Values for Life' which provides suggestions for weekly topics and worships based on a series of Bible stories or our school values. We will have a value for each half term.

We take account of the needs of children, their ages and development. We ensure that worship is given a high priority and is planned to take account of the church's year.

We believe that creating the right atmosphere is crucial to the quality of the worship. We plan the time so that there is a verity in content and methods, allowing opportunity for quiet personal reflection/worship.

We plan to use a range of methods, including:

- pupils' contributions
- Sacred and secular stories/readings
- Dance/drama
- Prayer/meditation/songs/hymns/music
- Artefacts
- Visual aids
- Dialogue/creative silence
- Visitors

Monitoring, evaluating & action planning worship

Worship is monitored and evaluated frequently to ensure that it meets the needs of all who take part. All stakeholders' opinions are sought this includes pupils, teachers, PCAF (Parent and Community Advisory Forum, Trust Directors/CEO & parents. A yearly action plan which feeds into the school development plan is written and revised to ensure that worship remains relevant and up to date.

A record of worship will be kept in our very own floor book providing opportunities for children, parents, staff and our local community to reconnect with our themes, messages or values.

The worship leader will meet with worship ambassadors once every two weeks to discuss, plan and evaluate worships. Termly ambassadors and the worship lead will meet with the

reverend and church clergy to discuss and plan up and coming worships. This time will also be used to evaluate the effectiveness of the ones completed.

Ambassadors and the worship leader will gather pupil voice throughout the year to help develop and improve further collective worships. Staff voice will also be collated throughout the year again to strengthen and develop worship.

Management of Worship Coordinator

This is done by the Head of School in conjunction and PCAF.

Worship themes and current practice

The worship themes for each week are based around several resources. The resources here are used to deliver collective worship. Anglican Lectionary, themes based on the schools' Christian values, Picture News, Open the Book, Roots and Fruits, Multi Faith Calendar.

Annually reviewed

Policy to be reviewed annually by Trust directors/CEO