



# St. Andrew's CEVA Primary School

## Collective Worship Policy

For where two or three gather together as my followers, I am there among them."  
Matthew 18:20

### Amendments

Date	Change	Actioned By
Sept 2024	No Changes	VG
Sept 2025	No Changes	VG

St. Andrew's Church of England Primary School is committed to providing a thriving Christian environment through the I ASPIRE values. These reflect the Christian ethos of our school and ensure that everyone feels safe, valued and supported so that all individuals can reach their highest goals and are encouraged to engage in lifelong learning. Our vision statement "*With God all things are possible*" (Matthew 19:26) is at the core of our values and is used to inspire everyone to be open to all possibilities and have a positive attitude and outlook to life. Spiritual, moral and emotional development are central to the life of our school and this will be reinforced in Collective Worship each day.

### Aims and Purpose

Through collective worship in our school we aim for all pupils and members of our school community to:

1. Experience worship that will allow them to respond to the presence, power and peace of God
2. Be introduced to Christian language and symbolism, key Anglican traditions, practices, beliefs, The Bible, festivals and the cycle of the church year and develop their understanding of these
3. Explore a variety of ways of reflection and praying, including well-known Christian prayers, e.g.
4. The Lord's Prayer, and be encouraged to lead and create their own prayers, contributing to their own
5. spiritual development.
6. Be strengthened and supported as a school community through worship giving expression to and
7. reaffirming the Christian values of the school (I ASPIRE), setting them in their Christian context.
8. Celebrate the strengths and gifts that everyone brings to the school community, recognising the uniqueness of each individual made in the image of God.
9. Use worship as an opportunity to develop spiritual, moral, emotional and leadership skills and to share learning, ideas, thoughts, feelings and beliefs.
10. Be encouraged to ask and reflect on the big questions that life poses and to respond to the wonder and mystery of the world around us, so developing personal spirituality
11. Foster a concern for others within the school and wider world, also developing links with other schools and faith communities, charity work and understanding of the major world faiths.
12. Foster an appreciation of the created world and an awareness of our responsibility for it.
13. Collective worship at St. Andrew's is both invitational and inspirational.

### **Invitational Collective Worship:**

1. 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.
2. Inclusion requires pupil involvement in planning, leading and the evaluation of worship.
3. At St. Andrew's, Collective Worship is planned to include the local context, pupils' experience, including their cultural backgrounds.
4. There is no compulsion to 'do anything'. Rather, worship provides 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 doors' 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.
5. The school community should always be invited to pray if they wish to do so and should be invited to pray in their own way.
6. Prayer should always be accompanied by the option to reflect.
7. Music and liturgies used in worship will reflect and connect with the I ASPIRE Values theme and explore the spirituality, educate and engage. Music used will also reflect the diverse worship experience of the wider Christian community.
8. In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act, which states that collective worship should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character', collective worship at St. Andrew's is based on the teachings of the Bible, of Christ and the Anglican liturgy. However, collective worship is conducted in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs of all members of the school.

### **Inspirational Collective Worship**

1. At St. Andrew's, worship is formational and transformational, enabling pupils and adults to ask and respond to big questions about who we are and why we do what we do. The worship motivates pupils and adults into action, into thinking differently, and into reflecting on their and the wider community's behaviour and actions.
2. The collective worship at St. Andrew's is based around the school's I ASPIRE Values and seeks to encourage deeper thinking as well as provide a consistent set of values that will be the basis of all stakeholders' conduct around school.
3. As a result of inspirational collective worship, the school community will become courageous advocates of causes. It should encourage them to think searchingly about their faith, beliefs and/or philosophical convictions.

### **Developing knowledge and skills of those delivering Collective Worship**

1. Parents, pupils and adults are entitled to be led in worship by those who have a secure understanding of the nature of collective worship in a Church school context and by those who are professional in their approach to working with pupils and adults from all faiths and none. Therefore, at St. Andrew's we build up the expertise of staff, pupils, clergy and other adults in facilitating inspirational collective worship in Church schools.
2. We invite the local clergy to deliver collective worship and to lead worship in church or at school for services that reflect the liturgical year and celebrate key events in the Christian year
3. Pupil worship leaders will be supported, encouraged and resourced to deliver meaningful acts of worship.

### **Monitoring and CPD**

1. At St. Andrew's, the Ethos Group will monitor the impact of collective worship; this group is made up of governors, SLT members, the Rector of St. Andrew's Church and any other stakeholders who have experience in delivering or monitoring collective worship. Monitoring

will include and meaningfully involve pupil voice. The Ethos Group will discuss its findings and from these, ensure constructive feedback to those who lead CW and develop an effective CDP programme for individuals and staff. The Ethos Group will follow up any action points with further visits. Those facilitating collective worship will receive feedback and have opportunity to respond to this.

2. Those from outside agencies and church groups invited into the school to facilitate worship will be properly briefed about the school, its pupil context and the school's values and vision. They will be supported and monitored as part of the school's systems for the evaluation of the impact of collective worship.

### **Planning of Collective Worship**

1. Collective Worship at St. Andrew's is planned in advance by the Collective Worship Leader. The planning of CW is around the school's I ASPIRE Values.

*I - Independence*

*A - Ambition*

*S - Self-control*

*P - Perseverance*

*I - Integrity*

*R - Responsibility*

*E - Empathy*

2. Each week is a different theme based on each value. The planning will usually take the form of a suitable video that reinforces the value, a big question that will encourage pupils to think about that value in a more spiritual and deeper way, a reflection song or music, a sing-along-song and a prayer. Whenever possible, there will be a bible verse or verses as a memory aid or reference.
3. The liturgical year is observed through collective worship. Liturgical seasons and events that are planned into collective worship are: Harvest, Advent, Christingle, Christmas, Epiphany, Candlemas, Lent, Easter Ascension, St. George's Day, St. Andrew's Day. Any other significant world- wide events may be incorporated into collective worship if it appropriate.
4. Services in collaboration with the St. Andrew's Church are planned throughout the year. These are carried either by video, the rector visiting the school to conduct the service, or the school attending a church service in St. Andrew's Church. Such services may be Harvest, Christingle, Nativity, Carol, Candlemas, Mothering Sunday, Easter, End of Year.
5. All those who deliver collective worship in classes will be able to access the links to the videos, songs and prayers from a Collective Worship Overview chart for each term on the school's Google Drive.
6. The school has regular outside visitors who facilitate collective worship. These are the Rector from St. Andrew's Church and CSALT from the Gospel Hall, Spencer Bridge.
7. At St. Andrew's there is a Worship Team that is made up of a small group of upper Key Stage 2 children who have volunteered to lead the collective worship following the school's values and themes. If there are a large number of pupils who volunteer to lead, they will have a chance to do this on a rota basis. The Worship Team works with the RE Lead to prepare for their delivery to the relevant Key Stage. The Worship Team delivers collective worship at least once a month.
8. The values and key themes of our worship, outcomes and special worship events are shared as widely as possible e.g. through home-school values documents, displays in and I ASPIRE posters in school, reporting in newsletters and Knowledge Organisers

### **Organisation of Collective Worship**

1. At St. Andrew's, collective worship occurs daily for all children unless they exercise their right to withdraw.\* We expect the children to show respect throughout collective worship even if they choose not to actively participate. Collective worship may occur within the classroom or in the hall depending on the weekly timetable.

2. Collective Worship should be conducted in a dignified and respectful way. All participants need to be quiet and thoughtful and to listen carefully to the videos, songs and prayers and consider questions thoughtfully and make contributions of their views and thoughts in class discussions and questions.
3. An appropriate atmosphere of reflection is created by using a lit candle, the cross, appropriate music and other objects that act as a focal point for the attention of the children.
4. Class teachers deliver collective worship in classes and senior leaders or members of the church community deliver collective worship in the hall or studio.
5. We celebrate the good works of individuals who demonstrate our I ASPIRE values by presenting a child from each class with an I ASPIRE Certificate each week. This is carried out either in each class by a member of SLT or through a Key Stage celebration gathering.
6. Good behaviour is also rewarded during these celebrations by operating a prize draw. Tall children who have followed the Class Code of Conduct all week, and stayed on board their class ship, automatically go into the prize draw. A child from each key stage will be selected to choose a prize.
7. Where appropriate, parents and governors are invited to celebrations and services, where we hope they will participate respectfully in the worship and celebration.

### **Review/Evaluation of Collective Worship**

1. Collective worship is evaluated and monitored by all pupils undertaking a reflection activity each day and there is a record of the children's views and reflections on each value/theme every week in the class Reflections Book.
2. Monitoring is carried out by the Ethos Group on a regular basis. This will include opportunities for all those who deliver collective worship to have feedback and have chance to respond and to re-visit and re-evaluate. *See Monitoring and CPD.*

### **Right of Withdrawal\***

All children are invited to attend collective worship. There will always be those who are uncomfortable to enter through this open door of worship in our school and so we recognise the right of withdrawal from collective worship for those parents or pupils who wish to exercise this option. This complies with the 1944 Education Act and was restated in the 1988 Education Reform Act. The parents of children who wish to exercise this right of withdrawal, should contact the school in the first instance to discuss the reasons for this and how it can be actioned.

The Headteacher keeps a record of all children who withdraw from collective worship.

**Signed: V. Griffiths**  
**Head Teacher & Collective Worship Lead**

**Date: Sept 2022**