

St Andrew's C.E. Primary School

Worship Policy



MISSION STATEMENT

Growing in Faith, Hope and Love

We believe that St. Andrew's C.E. Primary School exists to provide life's main opportunities for our children guided by and learning from the example and teaching of Jesus Christ.

These opportunities come from an ethos and curriculum that provide maximum learning experiences for each individual child, no matter what their particular learning abilities may be.

We will aspire to a curriculum which results in the enjoyment of learning, children who feel good about themselves and in which everyone can be good at something. We will encourage pupils to show tolerance and respect for each other, set themselves high standards, to take pride in their work and do their best.

We will provide curriculum enrichment activities including first hand experiences, creative opportunities, visits and visitors.

We will offer every child the chance to achieve as much as they are able.

We will achieve high standards for all children, giving them secure foundations for future learning and success in life.

Rationale

St. Andrews is a Voluntary Aided School within the Parish of Deane.

There are links with the Parish and local community through:-

- the Foundation and Diocesan Governors appointed by St. Andrew's PCC
- the involvement of the clergy in the school,
- holding school worship regularly in St. Andrew's Church and on special occasions,
- the use of the school for Brownies, Rainbows, Sunday School and other community groups
- the letting of the school grounds to local community groups by a local rounders club, through social links with the church, the PTFA and through school events such as Christmas Carol concerts
- Church and local community volunteers working in school with children
- provision of before and after school care
- the Diocesan initiative – Children Changing Places

Maintaining these links continues to be a priority and is considered crucial in developing a sense of community involving the Church, the School and the Parish.

Our daily assembly is a collective act of worship to give focus to our life and work. It is a time of relationship with God and our neighbours (each other and the world at large). We endeavour to encourage and support each other in our spiritual journey in life.

Entitlement

All children should take part in daily collective worship. Although St. Andrew's is an Aided Church of England school, the worship is appropriate for all Christians.

Parents do have the right to withdraw their children from Collective Worship but it is hoped that all pupils will attend.

We aim to provide a comfortable, worshipful atmosphere for all the children, which will allow the children the security and freedom to express and explore their own beliefs and feelings and will:

- Provide time for reflection and thought which will contribute both to the moral and spiritual development of the children;
- Encourage an understanding of what a Christian community believes, practices and prays;
- Encourage an understanding of what other Faiths believe, practice and how they pray, worship and celebrate
- Celebrate together the Christian festivals within the Church's year;
- Encourage children to grow in understanding of their own spiritual journey and in their exploration of their faith;
- Provide a distinctive and identifiable act of worship which could be a stimulus for further work to be carried out in the classroom environment at a level appropriate to the needs and understanding of the children;
- Follow a basic framework through a series of themes derived from a continuation of ideas from the church year, school events, current issues in local, national or world events and stories from the Bible, both Old and New Testament
- Provide opportunities for the children to participate in leading collective worship by contributing their own prayers, thoughts and feelings in a meaningful way.

Planning for collective worship

We utilise Pupil Voice through the Ethos Council to determine (and evaluate) the themes of our termly Monday and Tuesday Worship. Other themes are determined by events in the church calendar, issues specific to school, links with the community and national occasions. Appropriate hymns are then chosen to complement and link with the theme.

However, as new resources are found, they are incorporated into the programme to ensure that it stays alive and is not rooted in habit.

There is a regular pattern of collective worship each week.

Monday led by Rev Vinny Whitworth in school

Tuesday led by Head teacher or Deputy Head teacher

Wednesday led by Head teacher or Deputy Head teacher strengthening the children's understanding of the vision of the school *or* each class will celebrate their learning with family and friends twice a year.

Thursday Whole School Singing or Class worship with class council on a fortnightly basis

Friday led by Head teacher or Key Stage leaders for celebration assemblies

We organise outside speakers from other organisations and charities to raise children's awareness of the needs of others less fortunate than themselves and to stimulate a fund raising project. Care is taken to ensure that the content of any presentations is age appropriate and any electronic presentations are checked prior to viewing. Other outside agencies provide special assemblies, as does the Ethos Explorers

Monday/Tuesday

We try to follow a theme and liaise closely so that the two acts of collective worship relate and build one upon the other. Parents are invited to attend any of our special assemblies which are held in church and dates are published in advance. This enables families to take part in the day to day acts of collective worship alongside their children.

Wednesday

Each class in turn, on a twice yearly basis, takes the assembly on their choice of theme. Parents and friends of the children in the class are invited to these class assemblies. They are always well supported and very popular amongst the children.

It is hoped that this collective worship at St. Andrew's helps in nurturing the links between school, home, parish and the local community.

When there is no class assembly, collective worship is led by the Head Teacher or Deputy Head Teacher who will further explore the school's Mission and Vision statements with the intention that the children can articulate what the ethos of St Andrew's means to them and their peers.

Thursday

Whole School Singing St. Andrew's children can sing beautifully but we recognise that we need to practise known hymns and learn new ones in order to have a varied repertoire to support collective worship. We want children to enjoy singing God's praise so hymns are chosen on a weekly basis e.g the favourites of each class, the favourites of each member of staff. We try to have a balance between those suitable for younger and older children, hymns/carols which are suitable for festival occasions, hymns for everyday and for different themes. We try to give children opportunity to sing in unison (mostly) and in rounds.

Children also have the opportunity to reflect and worship in their classroom environment on alternate weeks.

Friday

Celebration assemblies in Key Stages celebrate the good work done by the pupils during the past week. These are usually led by the Head teacher but occasionally by Key Stage leaders. Certificates for good work or brilliant behaviour are awarded and a book is signed by all recipients. Recipients sign a special book. All children are encouraged to bring in any awards, certificates, medals etc that they have won or achieved outside of school and share them with the rest of the children. EYFS and Key Stage 1 begin at 9:15 am.; Key Stage 2 begin at 3 pm

School Prayer (composed by the Ethos Council Spring Term 2023)

Dear Lord

Help us to grow in faith, hope and love.

Help us to share our values inside and outside of school.

God give us confidence to do our best and to put our trust in you and one another.

Amen

End of Term Services

Special services are held in church to celebrate the main Christian Festivals (Harvest, Christmas, Easter) and the end of the school year. All parents are invited to attend and dates are distributed in advance.

Special Awards

We also award the Tracey Wadsworth trophy each term in each class for the child who has made an overall great effort– this trophy is awarded in memory of a parent of St. Andrew's who died tragically young. We try to ensure that children understand why these trophies are awarded and maintain the memory of those who were special to St. Andrew's.

The Hobnob (Resilience and Growth Mindset) awards are presented monthly, one per teacher.

Special Needs

Leaders of Collective Worship will be aware of and empathise with children with Special Education Needs and all children will have the opportunity to share in Collective Worship.

Resources

Resources for Collective Worship can be found in the libraries, Head teacher's office and with the R.E. resources.

Evaluation

Children evaluate collective worship through the Ethos Council led by a professional from the Children Changing Places team- currently Mrs Joanne Haslam and this meets every Monday afternoon for 20-30 minutes

S Charnock

June 2023 (to be reviewed July 2024 or earlier if required)