

Shottery St Andrew's CE Primary School



Anchored in faith we shine!

This policy is underpinned by our school vision based on the scripture,

*'Let your light shine before others,
that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.'*

Matthew 5:16

Collective Worship Policy

Date adopted by Governors:	February 2025
Date for policy review:	February 2026
Person responsible for review:	Headteacher
Signed by Chair of Governors	<i>L. Oranally</i>

Introduction

Collective worship is central to the life of our school. Worship offers the children and others in our school an opportunity to reflect on values and issues in the context of our Christian ethos. It reflects our Vision and shapes our approach to others and to what we do in school.

Our School Vision and Values

At Shottery St Andrew's CofE Primary, we aim to shine brightly as a church school. Our vision is to 'be lights to the world,' radiating through every aspect of our ethos and provision. As a result, we are a community where 'fullness of life' for everyone has the highest priority and where everyone, on a daily basis, is embraced as part of our Christian school family.

***'Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.'** Matthew 5:16*

Our Core Values:

Our SHINE values create a framework for our school community to achieve our aims:

Show Respect
Hope and Faith
Inspire One Another
Nurture Our Gifts
Embrace Opportunities

Pupils, staff and parents of all faiths, or none, are welcome to worship. Our school celebrates different religious, cultural and ethnic diversity and encourage dialogue and understanding or people of no faith. We believe that we can all learn from each other and that collective worship is an educational entitlement for all. In worship we create the opportunity to explore the place of faith in each of our lives, and in the communities in which we live. This worship can occur at various times of day and with a mixture of grouping of pupils. Through regular acts of worship our school has the opportunity of offering thanksgiving and praise to God through a range of liturgical patterns which may include the Eucharist.

Our collective worship provides the pupils and staff the opportunity to:

- worship God;
- experience a variety of styles of worship;
- celebrate: Christian festivals; school values; achievements;
- grow in understanding of and participation in prayer
- develop as a community based in Christian values;
- participate and respond, through active involvement in the planning, leading, presentation and evaluation of worship;
- feel safe and affirmed.

At times worship will reflect aspects of the curriculum and in particular will:

- nurture spiritual growth;
- consider moral issues in a Christian context and to;
- enhance social understanding;
- explore beliefs drawn from their own cultural heritage and those of others.

The Pattern of Collective Worship

Collective worship takes place in a variety of groupings as a whole school, in classrooms and on occasions outside.

We follow the seasons of the Church year and within this, significant festivals and other special days are observed. These always include Harvest, Christmas, Ash Wednesday, Easter and Pentecost and other days such as Candlemas are celebrated occasionally.

Whenever worship takes place it is planned to promote thinking beyond the time given to worship itself.

Leading worship

Worship has a variety of leaders from both within school and from the local Church. Our school Worship Committee are given opportunities to lead worship throughout the year and classes and other groups (school council, school Charity Committee and Junior Road Safety Officers) are also scheduled to deliver worship. Visitors are welcome to lead collective worship from time to time and are given guidance on our worship policy. Leaders from faiths within the area help us to increase the pupils' awareness, promote respect and raise the esteem of the pupils who belong to these faiths.

Our daily act of worship is contained within our morning assemblies:

Monday 8:55am - Whole school worship led by Mrs Withers to introduce the value of the week through a picture book

Tuesday 8:55am – Whole school worship/Reverend Craig Assembly/ Open the Book

Wednesday 8:55am - Singing Worship

Thursday 8:55am - Class Worship, completing class reflection journals

Friday 8:55am - KS1/ KS2 SHINE Together assembly led by Mrs Withers - parents are welcome to join us with these assemblies to share and celebrate their children's work and achievements with us.

Planning Acts of Collective Worship

Our acts of worship are carefully planned to ensure a balance between content and experience. Leaders, including the children, plan the content and activities included in Worship according to what is most appropriate to the season/theme, and the ages, aptitudes and the backgrounds of the pupils. Throughout their time at our school children will encounter a wide variety of activities such as dance and drama alongside traditional elements of worship such as prayer and song.

Prayer is a vital part of our worship and is invitational. It is introduced with a form of words that invites but does not coerce pupils to participate. Our prayers are addressed to Jesus and God reflecting the traditions and practices of the Church of England. Pupils who prefer not to pray are encouraged to use these times to reflect on the important messages shared in our worship.

Our worship is regularly reviewed through discussions with participants, observation and reflection. and our evaluations are fed into the planning for future worship.

Collective worship will:

- be acceptable to the whole community, staff and children
- include a variety of elements at different times
- involve the children
- have a dedicated focus which signifies what is being reflected upon.
- provide a dedicated opportunity for children to reflect/respond to the input

Acts of worship often include and ritual aspects these are a means of enabling worship and include:

- stories and readings
- songs, hymns and music
- dance and drama
- prayer, meditations
- creative silence
- sacred/secular readings
- artefacts and natural materials
- children's contributions

Educational

Our acts of collective worship provide wider opportunities to:

- reflect the aims of the school, and foster wide ownership of our core values;
- assist learners to have increased awareness and to reflect upon fundamental issues about life;
- enhance, complement and extend curricular work;
- develop learners' understanding of the Christian faith and Anglican practice through appropriate Biblical and liturgical content;
- identify opportunities for Christian celebration which can be associated with other school events;
- learn about and from other religions and cultures
- this will include scope to celebrate the academic, social, personal and wider achievements of pupils.
- develop their understanding of core British values.

A legal note

By law, Collective Worship must:

- be provided for every child every day;

Our policy sets out clearly our aspiration that collective worship will be a valuable and valued experience for all members of our school community whatever their backgrounds and beliefs. It is invitational, inclusive and reflective in nature and never coercive or indoctrinatory.

A parent's right to withdraw his/her child from part or all of the act of collective worship is confirmed in the Education Reform Act 1988. Collective worship, however, should provide an opportunity for worship which is appropriate to all participating pupils. Whilst we hope that parents will advocate that their child will take part in collective worship as part of their rich experience of school life, we respect the views of parents to withdraw and as an inclusive body the SACRE would be interested to hear the reasons for withdrawal (email sacre@warwickshire.gov.uk).

In the first instance, we ask parents who may wish to exercise this right to visit school to speak with the Headteacher.