



Aston Rowant C+E Primary School

Collective Worship Policy

Vision: To be a community of courageous life-long learners, who are rooted in God, live out our Christian values and enjoy life in all its fullness.

Mission: Growing together, rooted in God and inspiring one another through our values and our broad enriched curriculum.

Strapline: Growing together, rooted in God, having fullness of life (Col 2:1-7)

Date of Policy: September 2024

Date of Policy review: September 2026

Head Teacher: H. France

Date: 02.10.24

Chair of Governors: S. Taylor

Date: 02.10.24

VISION

Our Vision is that by growing together we inspire each other to achieve our full potential as courageous lifelong learners. This is underpinned by our core Christian values: Gratitude, Resilience, Outreach, Wonder, Trust, Harmony.

Pupils, staff and parents of all faiths or none are welcome to worship. Aston Rowant CofE Primary School is a faith community that celebrates religious, cultural and ethnic diversity and encourages dialogue and understanding. We believe that we can all learn from each other and the collective worship is an educational entitlement for all. Through our daily act of worship our school has the opportunity of offering thanksgiving and praise to God through a range of liturgical patterns.

AIMS AND PURPOSE

The aims and purpose of collective worship for children and staff are:

- to provide an opportunity to worship God;
- to enable us to consider spiritual, moral, social and cultural issues;
- to enable us to explore our own beliefs;
- to encourage participation and response;
- to develop in children a sense of community spirit;
- to promote a common ethos with shared Christian values;
- to reinforce positive attitudes;
- Support our vision statement; • to teach children how to worship.

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

We understand worship to be a special act or occasion whose purpose is to show reverence to God. Collective worship involves all members of the school coming together and participating in an act of worship. We expect everyone to take an active part in the collective worship.

In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act, which states that collective worship should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character', we normally base our collective worship on the teachings of Jesus Christ and traditions of the Christian Church. However, we conduct our collective worship in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs of all members of the school.

While the majority of acts of worship in our school are Christian, we also hold collective worship that reflects other religious traditions that are represented in the school and the wider community.

GRATITUDE RESILIENCE OUTREACH WONDER TRUTH HARMONY

'Let your roots grow down into him, and let your lives be built on him.' Colossians 2:7

ORGANISATION OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

We hold a daily act of collective worship in our school. This forms part of each morning Collective Worship, which is normally a whole-school collective worship, although it can be held separately for each key stage.

We conduct collective worship in a dignified and respectful way. We tell children that collective worship time is a period of calm reflection. We regard it as a special time and expect children to behave in an appropriate way. We ask them to be quiet and thoughtful and to listen carefully to the teachings and participate fully in prayer, responses and hymns. We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music and sometimes candles or other objects that act as a focal point for the attention of the children.

The children of Aston Rowant School are our Worship Leaders with the Headteacher, other members of staff or the children themselves conducting the collective worship. Foundation governors, local clergy or other representatives of local religious groups and other organisations also conduct acts of worship.

We take the themes of our collective worship from our Christian values as well as the Anglican traditions of the Christian faith and we often reflect the festivals and events of the Christian calendar. Sometimes the themes of our collective worship reflect and build on topics that we teach as part of the school curriculum. We plan our collective worship well in advance of the day they take place and link them appropriately to the half term values.

Our collective worship reflects the achievements and learning of the children. We encourage the children to participate in, plan and lead collective worship. They plan the worship itself as well as by showing their work to the other children and raising issues that they have discussed in their classes. Collective worship offers an opportunity to acknowledge and reward children for their achievements both in and out of schools. They play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school, which is that all children are valued and all achievements are recognised. Aston Rowant CofE Primary School is a successful school and we shall celebrate the successes of all the children in Collective Worship.

We invite parents to collective worship on a regular basis and we encourage them to attend, as this promotes the community spirit of the school and is a practical demonstration of the way the home and the school work together to support the achievements of our children.

We welcome Governors' attendance at our collective worship at any time.

Worship Leaders are self-nominated from the Year 6 children and a team of children lead responses and sending out prayers for that season or half-term. Class Worship is led by volunteers within the class.

The Table has a cross with coloured cloth which reflects the liturgical colours of the Church's year.

RIGHT OF WITHDRAWAL

We expect all children to attend collective worship. However, any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from attending religious worship and the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during the period concerned. Parents do not have to explain or give reasons for this. This complies with the 1944 Education Act and was restated in the 1988 Education Reform Act.

MONITORING AND REVIEW

It is the role of the foundation governors with responsibility for religious education and collective worship to monitor the policy and practice of collective worship. The governor concerned liaises with the Head teacher before reporting to the governors on religious education and collective worship. At Aston Rowant CofE Primary School we have a named Collective Worship Governor and all governors take part in the monitoring of acts of worship and reviewing questionnaires and surveys for pupils, staff and parents. Part of the monitoring visit form is to record the children's views on collective worship.

PLANNING OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Planning for collective worship is the responsibility of the Collective Worship Lead who coordinates the process. In preparing the termly themes for worship the lead will take the views of children, staff, parents, governors and clergy in setting the themes and content for 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. 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. As part of being invitational and inclusive our worship begins by stating 'Whatever your background, whatever your belief – we welcome you and invite you to worship in your own way.' 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.