

Appleton CE Primary School Worship policy

*Our vision is to be a happy and welcoming school community where we learn to **build wisely for life** by following Jesus' example of love and care, and by aiming to be the best we can for ourselves and the good of others.*

Introduction

At Appleton C of E Primary School daily acts of collective worship are a key part of our vision of “building wisely for life”. It is at the heart of our school, allowing children time to reflect on our school vision and associated values, Christian values and world issues by considering bible stories, other stories, music and film, and how these relate to their own life and experience. While collective worship is distinctively Christian in nature, it allows children and staff the opportunity to consider similarities around morals, stories and traditions from other religions, as well as giving freedom, within both prayer and reflection times, to worship in their own ways.

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

- nurture spiritual development;
- consider moral issues in a Christian context and to;
- Enhance social understanding;
- explore beliefs drawn from their own cultural heritage.

Collective worships share a number of key features.

- The lighting of a candle, with focusing phrases
- A representation of the Holy trinity (whether as a candle with three wicks or a bible/cross/candle in class collective worship)
- A link to a key Christian value
- A moment of calm and reflection
- An invitational prayer
- Singing
- Age-appropriate stories

The Pattern of Collective Worship

Collective worship takes place in a variety of groupings in the school hall, 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, Remembrance, Christmas, Ash Wednesday and Easter and other days such as Mothering Sunday 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 Community Children are given opportunities to regularly lead worship. Visitors are welcome to lead collective worship from time to time and are given guidance on our worship policy.

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.¹¹

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. Pupils who prefer not to pray are encouraged to use these times to reflect on the important messages shared in our worship.¹²

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

A legal note

By law, Collective Worship must:

- be provided for every child every day;
- reflect the school's Trust Deed.

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.

Parents have a right to withdraw their children from all or any acts of worship. In the first instance we ask parents who may wish to exercise this right to visit school to speak with the headteacher.