



Austrey C of E Primary School Collective Worship Policy



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Policy Statement on Collective Worship

Austrey C of E. Primary School is part of the Birmingham Diocesan Multi Academy Trust and is a voluntary aided Church of England Primary School where Christianity is fundamental to every aspect of school life. We aim to promote the spiritual and moral development of children, and lay the foundations for them to have the opportunity to grow in the Christian faith.

A secure and loving environment provides children with knowledge and skills and the ability to use these both now and in later life. As a voluntary aided school, our worship is in accordance with the beliefs of the Church of England. Collective Worship takes place daily and reflects our Christian foundation. We plan worship to give children an experience which is uplifting and rooted in the core Christian values of the school; love, respect, hope, forgiveness and challenging injustice.

Worship and Education

The 1998 Education Reform Act points to the importance of the spiritual in children's development. Worship is central to spiritual experience and it is a vital task that the school educates children about worship. Education in worship should be exploratory and well as affirming the beliefs that children hold and helping them to understand the Christian faith. Collective worship provides an "open door" to reflect on God and an invitation to participate in songs, prayers and reflections. Children are invited to make their own responses to the worship, for example being invited to say their own "amen" if they agree with prayers led from the front.

Worship in School

In accordance with our Foundation, we support and encourage the teachings and practice of the Christian faith in regular acts of Collective worship. Children are given the opportunity to experience various forms of Christian worship.

We nurture a close relationship between the school and the local church in Austrey and we value the participation of the local clergy who leads and takes part in our worship on a regular basis. The 'All souls' team lead Collective Worship in school regularly, enriching experiences of Bible stories for all the children by retelling and presenting all the main Bible stories and themes. We include termly visits to Church

to celebrate the Christian festivals of Harvest, Christmas and Easter and to celebrate mothers day and say farewell to the Year 6 children at the end of the academic year. In addition to this we keep the children fully informed of any church activities including 'Messy Church' and 'All Soul's café'.

Worship is given a high priority and follows the unfolding of the church year (a three year programme is key to our planning). The changing needs of the children as they progress through the school are also key to our planning.

Parents have the right to withdraw their child from the daily act of collective worship without giving a reason for doing so. Schools must comply with this wish, and must ensure a duty of care for pupils who are withdrawn from collective worship. Please speak to the Headteacher in the first instance if you have any concerns about worship in school.

Pattern of worship

Collective Worship takes place between 9.15- 9.30am. Parents are welcome to join us on a Friday for the celebration and achievement assembly, as well as for the 'All Souls' assembly visits.

Special services take place at the end of the term in the Austrey C of E church and to mark Christian festivals and special occasions. All children participate in these services and they are well attended by parents and extended family members.

Each member of staff takes part in leading collective worship on a rota basis. Our school have a worship council made up from a representative from each year group. They meet regularly with the worship council leader and plan collective worship items. Each of the classes leads worship at least once a year. The Y6 assembly monitors prepare for each Collective Worship by setting the worship table and operating the music system and computer.

The Friday collective worship includes celebrations of achievement with the distribution of:-

- ❖ Merit certificates
- ❖ Well done certificates
- ❖ Sporting awards
- ❖ Weekly attendance awards
- ❖ Worship council awards
- ❖ Any other certificates

During the celebration assembly children have the opportunity to share certificates and medals awarded for out of school activities.

Monitoring Worship

A record of themes of worship is on display in the staff room. The worship council reviews the feedback from collective worship and works to make improvements. The worship council is made up of representatives from each year group (year 1-6). A Collective Worship folder is available in the staff room and forms a record of worship in school.

Music

Music is an important aspect of our collective worship. We have a collection of favoured songs which we play through the laptop and video projector.

Summary

At Austrey C of E school we aim to:

- ❖ Draw examples from Christian liturgical worship
- ❖ Incorporate examples of Christian worship appropriate to the children's ages and understanding
- ❖ Provide opportunities for all children to take part in worship
- ❖ Be properly prepared. Teachers are encouraged to follow up worship when appropriate
- ❖ Help children to understand why people worship and how worship is rooted in the school core Christian values.
- ❖ Provide examples of beliefs from other faiths
- ❖ Enjoy the act of collective worship