

Audlem St James' C.E. Primary School



Let Your Light Shine.' Matthew 5:16

At Audlem we embrace the adventure of learning, encouraging everyone to step out further, think more deeply and become more understanding. Inspired by our Christian values, we are developing our skills, our courage and our wisdom to achieve beyond expectations and become successful learners, caring citizens and confident individuals. Through God's love, we are nurtured, we are inspired and we shine.

Collective Worship Policy

Policy Schedule	Date	Signed
Written:	March 2022	
Amended & approved by Governors on:	April 2022 September 2022	
To be reviewed:	Autumn2024	

Collective Worship Policy

Audlem St James CE Primary School Collective Worship Policy

Christian Values

As a Church school we hold our Christian Values at the heart of everything we do. These are:

LOVE, PEACE, HOPE, FORGIVENESS, JOY & COURAGE

Vision and Values

At Audlem we embrace the adventure of learning, encouraging everyone to step out further, think more deeply and become more understanding. Inspired by our Christian values, we are developing our skills, our courage and our wisdom to achieve beyond expectations and become successful learners, caring citizens and confident individuals. Through God's love, we are nurtured, we are inspired and we shine.

Let Your Light Shine Matthew 5.14.16

In Audlem St James CE worship is central to the life of school and is the main platform for exploring the school's vision. It is well planned and of high quality so that the whole school community is engaged on a journey of discovery, exploring the teachings of Jesus and the Bible.

For Christians in Church, worship is about honouring God and responding to the loving nature of God as revealed through the Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. A school is not a Church but is a collection of people who come from a variety of backgrounds for the purpose of education. The family backgrounds may be very different and collective worship must take account of the varied circumstances of staff and pupils.

All Worship works around the 3 I's Inclusive, Invitational, and Inspirational. This is important as we want all stakeholders to be part of the spirituality of the school and we encourage this through developing spirituality in 3 ways, Windows - developing an Awareness of the world around us, Mirrors - through reflecting on personal experiences and considering philosophical questions, Doors -providing children the opportunity to put their ideas to action and live their beliefs.

Through Collective Worship pupils will be offered a space and a place for the telling of the Christian story. They will be offered an understanding of worship through being invited to participate in or observe prayer, reading and reflection on the Bible, liturgy, sacrament and experience of the musical and other imaginative riches of Christianity. Opportunities to reflect on the beauty, joy and pain of the world will be given. Pupils will be given time to consider their responsibilities to others and to grow in love and service. Time will be given for celebration, both for the accomplishments of school members and to mark the seasonal festivals of the Christian (and other faiths)

calendar. Pupils will be offered time to be able to contemplate and develop spiritually. At Audlem St James Church of England Primary School the daily act of collective worship is viewed as an integral and important part of school life. It is a time where we come together to share our love of God and celebrate our achievements (and sometimes failures) together. The worship of the school is based on promoting the Christian values which permeate the ethos of the school.

At Audlem St James CE Primary Collective Worship we aim to:

- Have a pivotal place in the life of the school.
- Support pupils and adults in their spiritual growth
- Be the central vehicle by which the school's vision is unpacked and explored so that the whole school community is challenged and engaged with the teachings of Jesus and the Bible.
- Provide an experience of worship that will offer opportunities for those present to observe and/or respond to the presence, power and peace of God as understood by Christians. This will always be invitational, offering an opportunity to take part whilst allowing the freedom for those of other faiths and none to be present with integrity.
- Support pupils in the development of their understanding of the Trinitarian nature of God in Christian belief
- Provide a variety of different opportunities for reflection, understanding of diverse liturgical traditions, participation, challenge and enjoyment where all present can be actively involved and develop their own spirituality whilst contributing to the communal journey.
- Help children to become familiar with Christian language and symbolism and the cycle of the Church year so that they are offered a pattern of meanings and a framework into which they can begin to integrate experience.
- Explore a variety of ways of praying, giving children the opportunity to form their own prayers using multi-sensory foci and introduce them to some well know Christian prayers, as well as a variety of prayers of thanksgiving before mealtimes and home time.
- Offer opportunities to all children and staff to develop their skills in planning, leading and evaluating the impact of school worship with the support and shared engagement of the local church community. Pupils will be at the centre of this process taking on increasingly independent roles in planning and leading worship.
- Ensure that materials and themes for worship are carefully selected to make sure pupils understand the work of Christians and the church locally, nationally and globally and how this reflects the teachings of the Bible and the example of Jesus.

Church of England Guidance

Collective worship policy at Audlem St James CE draws on guidance from the Church of England. This guidance document has been produced to challenge, to guide and set expectations for Church school communities and diocesan authorities, encouraging them to reflect on their practice and to ensure that collective worship remains the relevant and essential component of an education that enables all pupils to flourish.

Legal Requirements

There must be a daily act of collective worship in all maintained schools for all pupils, other than those in a nursery class or a nursery school. This can take place at anytime in the school day and in any groupings. Collective worship in a Church of England School must be in accordance with the tenets and practices of the Church of England. In other words, the law on collective worship that applies in a community school, "that it should be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character", is not relevant. Worship in Audlem St James CE should be distinctly Christian and reflect Anglican traditions.

Legal Requirements

We acknowledge the legal requirement stated in the 1988 Education Reform Act 6 (1) and 9 (3), which states the need for each child to attend a daily act of worship either as a whole school, class or group. Parents have the legal right to withdraw their children from the act of worship either partially or wholly. Any parents wishing to do so should contact the Headteacher. Teachers also have the right to withdraw from leading and taking part in worship.

Organisation

The wooden cross in the Hall is a reminder of our strong Christian association. A candle is used as a point of focus in assembly, alongside music and images. Links between St James's Church and the school are long established; we hold services in church at least four times a year for Harvest, Christmas, Easter and a service for the pupils leaving school in July. These services bring parents and children together. The Vicar takes collective worship in school at least once a month and contributes to the Church Services. We also have strong links with the Methodist Church and the church leaders lead a collective worship in school once a fortnight.

We aim to provide a variety of worship experiences for the children. Our current schedule is as follows:

Monday	Whole school worship led by the Headteacher / Assistant Heads
Tuesday	Whole school worship led by a visiting church leader or teacher
Wednesday	Whole school hymn practice, with prayer/reflection time, led by teachers
Thursday	Roundabout Worship led by class teachers
Friday	Whole school Praise worship led by the Headteacher / Assistant Headteachers.

Once every term, the Wonderful Worship group will lead a collective worship to introduce the Christian Value of the half term. The group meet on a regular basis to discuss the Christian Ethos of the school, talk about issues and worship. In addition to this, visiting groups and individuals are welcomed into the school regularly to lead worship.

Planning for worship is based first of all on the Christian Calendar, and in particular on the advice from the Diocese. Particular events are programmed for each term and a thematic approach is used. A wide range of resources is available for the preparation of themes and a variety of formats is used. Each act of worship includes a song, a story/poem/factual account/discussion with the children and a prayer. Music is used to introduce and end the worship; music is sometimes used as the worship theme.

Children are encouraged to take an active part in all collective worship eg: selecting pre-recorded music, leading responses, delivering information, important messages to other pupils, talking about life experiences, reading aloud, asking and responding to questions raised.

The act of collective worship should last approximately 15 minutes.

Prayer and Reflection

Collective worship always includes a time of prayer and/or reflection, including hymn practice. A range of prayers is used including the Lord's Prayer and the school prayer. They are introduced in an appropriate manner with a short time of quiet. At the beginning of the whole school worship led by the Headteacher or Assistant Head, a time of reflection and quiet is encouraged by the lighting of candles. A cross is also displayed above the altar table. Worship is accessed by everyone except on occasions where it is not in the interest of the pupil well-being. The Worship Powerpoint is accessed by staff members to set out steps for worship. At the beginning of the lunch hour, grace is said by either an adult or child in each class. Teachers make an individual decision about whether to say a prayer with their class at the end of the school day. Each classroom has an area for reflection which children are encouraged to use when they want to pray or reflect.

Other Faiths

Although our worship reflects our Christian beliefs and values, we are committed to respecting each other's faith stance and culture, showing tolerance and understanding regardless of pupils' beliefs. The class-led acts of worship may portray other cultures and beliefs as they reflect the RE studied as part of the curriculum requirements.

Equal Opportunities and special needs issues

All pupils, regardless of academic ability, age, gender and ethnic origin will have access to a wide range of appropriate activities to support their understanding of R.E. At each Key Stage, the teacher will draw from other religions as appropriate to acknowledge and celebrate the religious beliefs of the children within the class.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The Head teacher together with the Governing body has overall responsibility for monitoring and evaluation of Religious Education and worship across school

- ✓ The R.E. Subject leader and Senior Leadership team monitors worship, across the school.

The link Trustee and Governor responsible will monitor the implementation of this policy by:

- ✓ Monitor the delivery of Collective Acts of worship and offer positive and helpful feedback to staff members.
- ✓ Regularly enable and support worship for the school within the church for the key highlights in the Christian calendar.