

Ainderby Steeple Church of England Primary School

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Written: Autumn 2020

Review: Autumn 2023

INTRODUCTION

Ainderby Steeple Church of England School will conduct its collective worship in accordance with the trust deed reflecting the Anglican foundation of the school.

Collective worship is regarded as an important time in the school day, for the school community as a whole, to gather together and share in a time of quiet reflection.

AIMS

Collective worship reflects the ethos of the school. It is part of the whole school curriculum and has an educational, moral and spiritual dimension. It is a time of quietness when the school community can meet and share happy and sad times: in the Christian Year, in families, in the community, nationally and internationally and of course, in the school family.

It gives children (and staff) a chance to extend and explore their ideas and share and deepen their own thoughts.

It is our aim that worship should: -

- contribute to the spiritual, social, moral and cultural development of each child.
- give expression to, and reaffirm and practise the values of the school community
- allow reflection and response to the fundamental questions of life and those things that are of eternal concern and value to human beings
- celebrate and give thanks for the achievements within the school, local and international community and occasions of significance, including festivals.
- foster and enable a concern for the needs of others, a recognition of the vulnerability of self and of others
- provide members of the school community with the opportunity to experience stillness and quiet
- provide members of the school community with the opportunity to respond to Christian language and symbolism
- to help students to begin to understand the nature and purpose of worship
- provide a foundation for a mature understanding and practice of worship in the future.

PLANNING/DELIVERY

The planning is undertaken by the whole staff on a termly basis with input from the children via the school council. It seeks to achieve a balance between Christian Festivals, seasons, stories from the Bible, famous people, moral issues and a celebration of children's own work. We conduct our Collective Worship in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs of all members of the school.

Children often take part in collective worship. Each member of staff and the Rector (when available) leads an act of daily worship - this commences at 1.00pm for a quarter of an hour (Monday to Thursday) - but sometimes, local clergy or other representative of local Christian groups conduct them instead.

Special services are held for Harvest, Christmas and at the end of the Easter and Summer terms in St Helen's Church (weather permitting). To these special services parents and friends of the school are invited.

We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music and lighting a candle; other aids such as pictures are sometimes used as a focal point for the attention of the children. A display is also created above the worship table to reflect the theme for the week.

Our Friday collective worship reflects the achievements and learning of the children. This 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. Ainderby Steeple Church of England Primary School is a successful school and we celebrate the successes of all the children. During the week children are encouraged to write their own prayers and place them on the Prayer board. These prayers are shared during the Friday collective worship.

RECORDING

Records are kept of all themes covered in collective worship.

RIGHT OF WITHDRAWAL

The school complies with the legal requirements to provide a daily act of worship for all pupils. However, due regard will be given to parents' right to withdraw their children from this activity if they so wish. Any parents wishing to withdraw their child from Collective Worship are asked to arrange a meeting with the Headteacher to discuss the request.

Agreed by Governors and staff:

Signed: _____

Date: _____