



ALDERBURY AND WEST GRIMSTEAD SCHOOL

Collective Worship Policy

Foundations for Life

Learning
Individuals
Friendship
Environment

This policy is intended to be used as part of Alderbury and West Grimstead School's overall strategy and implemented within the context of our vision and values as a Church of England school. It should be read in conjunction with other relevant policies including the school's Data Protection, curriculum, SEN, equality and safeguarding policies, health and safety policies and accompanying procedures and our policy for the administration of medicines and multi-agency guidance for the management of long term health conditions for children and young people.

Alderbury and West Grimstead School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people. The school's policies and procedures are aligned to the introduction of British Values and the prevention of extremism.

Date of Next Review: April 2028

Alderbury and West Grimstead School

Collective Worship Policy

At Alderbury and West Grimstead School we consider our daily act of worship as an important part of the school day. We aim for our acts of worship to be inclusive of all children and there is an expectation that all children will be present. In our acts of worship, we aim to offer the opportunity to explore, reflect on and respond to the mystery and meaning of the Christian faith and to promote the Christian foundation of our School whilst including those children from other faith traditions or from families with no faith backgrounds.

At Alderbury and West Grimstead School we plan our daily acts of worship to offer opportunities to support and strengthen our School community and celebrate each unique individual member made in the image of God.

The aims of Collective Worship at Alderbury and West Grimstead School include:

- to provide opportunities for the children to worship God and to provide some experience and understanding of the nature and language of worship
- to help children explore their own beliefs
- to promote the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of the children
- to develop knowledge and understanding of the concepts of Christianity.
- to strengthen the community of the school and reaffirm the ethos, values, foundations and ideals of the school
- to encounter commitment, and to celebrate beliefs, ideas, values and experiences
- to enable children to use silence for reflection, contemplation and prayer
- to help children develop respect for, and sensitivity to, the beliefs of others
- to support the wider curriculum through the use of art, music, poetry, story and drama.

The Legal Requirements

The 1988 Education Reform Act states that there must be a daily act of worship for every pupil in the school and that this should take place on the school premises. Most acts of worship are to be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character i.e. to reflect the broad traditions of Christian belief without being distinctive of any particular Christian denomination. The responsibility for worship arrangements lies with the Headteacher after consultation with the Governing Body. Parents have the right to withdraw their children from the daily act of worship. Parents wishing to withdraw their children from the daily act of worship will need to make a written request to the Headteacher. The religious foundation of Alderbury and West Grimstead School as stated in the Trust Deed is Church of England and the daily act of Worship is delivered in accordance with the principles and practice of the Church of England.

Collective Worship at Alderbury and West Grimstead School

- We provide opportunities for thought and creative silence where children can reflect on issues.
- We create an environment conducive to worship.
- We provide a variety of activities in which children can share their responses.
- We use appropriate language and explanations to enable children to understand context.
- We involve children in the planning, preparation and as active participants.
- We foster a sense of community and respect within the school, and a sense of shared values, outlook and purpose.

Responses from Worship

We would look for a wide variety of responses from worship including:

- Adoration
- Awe and wonder
- Celebration
- Love
- Praise
- Respect
- Compassion
- Awareness of the importance of learning from the experiences of others
- Responding to challenge
- Peace
- Sense of shared sadness or loss
- Thankfulness
- Stillness
- Feelings of belonging
- Reflection
- Worship as Special Times
- Awareness that we live in a globally connected world

Collective worship should have a distinctively spiritual atmosphere, one that is conducive to worship.

The use of appropriate background music will be chosen to help create the right ambience as children enter and leave the worship.

Visual symbols are placed on a table as a focal point for the children. These regularly include a cross and a candle, but may include other artefacts identified by the children as inspiring awe and wonder. The cross emphasises the Christian focus of the act of worship. The candle is lit to indicate to the children that the special time has begun and is used to act as a focus to children to look at when considering aspects of the day's worship. It is also to remind children that Jesus is the Light of the World. We use 3 candles to represent the trinity and to support children's understanding of this complex concept.

A variety of experiences will be used to provide opportunities for the children to participate i.e. drama, discussion, singing, quiet contemplation, prayer.

The worship will be child-centred, relating to the children's experiences and concerns.

Materials for worship will be drawn from the Christian tradition and this will help ensure the Christian character of the worship without being distinctive of any particular denomination.

Prayer is considered an important part of worship and foundations for understanding and practices of prayer are done by:

1. allowing periods of silence
2. encouraging children to write, read and say their own prayers
3. saying simple 'child-orientated' prayers
4. sharing The Lord's Prayer

Organisation, Monitoring and Evaluation

Weekly Collective Worship Rota*

Monday: Headteacher – based on Roots & Fruits Materials

Tuesday: News-Day Tuesday, led by one of the classes

Wednesday: Representative from St Mary's Church / Open the Book team

Thursday: Celebration Assembly

Friday: Sing Up

*This rota is intended to act as guidance as flexibility is an important part of ensuring that the children benefit from different opportunities which often present themselves to the school.

Collective worship lasts for approximately 15-20 minutes and is planned termly. The themes are Christian based with the focus changing each term or half term to provide children with a wide Christian/Biblical experience and support children's religious literacy.

Children have opportunities to respond to worship by discussion within their classes and through comments recorded on the leaves of our reflection tree and in their own reflection journal. Children are also formally invited to evaluate the impact of worship through the completion of questionnaires or discussions with foundation governors.

Artefacts suitable for use in worship include a variety of crosses, candles and Christian symbols, Bibles, a Christening robe, pictures of Jesus seen through the eyes of artists, a crib scene, chalice and patten, ceremonial stoles and Big Books.

Alderbury and West Grimstead School welcomes visitors and, in addition to weekly acts of worship led by a member of St Mary's Church, we enjoy visits from the Open the Book team and Salisbury Churches Together group, The Bridge Youth Project.

Church Services

We have the opportunity to visit local churches at various times throughout the year. While our Harvest Service and Christmas Nativity Service are held at the school, we are welcomed at St Mary's Church to share our Christmas Carol Service in December and an Easter Service. Parents are invited to attend all of these celebrations.

The member of Staff responsible for Collective Worship is the Collective Worship Subject Leader. This person organises the worship themes for the school year, ensures the worship is suitable for the age and ability of the children and monitors resources for our times of worship.

Resources

These include a range of planning resources including 'Roots and Fruits'. Please approach the Collective Worship Co-ordinator for details of further resources.

Role of Governors

Governors determine, support, monitor and review school policies. They support the use of appropriate teaching strategies by allocating resources effectively. They ensure that the building and equipment is safe. They monitor pupil attainment across the school and ensure that staff development and performance management ensure good quality teaching. Governors will observe and evaluate collective worship at least once a term. As Celebration Worship is now recorded and available to view via the School Website, Governors and parents have a convenient means to keep in touch with Worship on a weekly basis.

This policy will be reviewed at least every three years.