



## Collective Worship Policy

### Rationale

St Augustine's VC Academy is a Christian, Church of England Primary School. Our religious character, and our determination to promote and develop a school where all stakeholders pride themselves in living and breathing the schools vision, is central to our school's ethos. Our core belief is that all should, "Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven," *Matthew 5:16*. We live out our core belief through our mission, practice and behaviours. Through embracing the values and 'Golden Rules' central to 'The St Augustine's Way', we aim to see our children and grown-ups flourish, and be a school 'Where we all Shine'.

This collective worship policy draws together and underpins all that we are as a church school. We believe that it is our responsibility to reflect the school's Christian foundations and beliefs. We believe that St Augustine's Academy should openly promote and witness its Christian nature whilst valuing and welcoming those of all faiths and religious backgrounds, and those of none.

Collective worship and times of personal reflection, add to the sense of community within our school and to the spiritual development, nurturing and growth of each individual.

### Legal Requirements

In accordance with the School Standards and Framework Act 1998, we seek to ensure that an act of daily collective worship is provided for all pupils. As a Church of England Academy, and in accordance with our Articles of Association, the beliefs of the Christian faith form the basis of all our Collective Worship, and Acts of Worship. Parents have the right to withdraw their children from Collective Worship.

### Aims (Education Reform Act 1988)

The aims and purpose of Collective Worship as defined by the Education Reform Act 1988 are as follows:

- To provide an opportunity for the children to worship God
- To enable children to consider spiritual and moral issues
- To enable children to explore their own beliefs
- To encourage participation and response
- To develop in children a sense of community spirit
- To promote a common ethos with shared values and to reinforce positive attitudes

### Aims (St Augustine's Academy)

In addition to the above, at St Augustine's Academy we aim to:

*"Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven," Matthew 5:16.*

- Provide opportunities for personal growth through experiences of stillness, reflection, peace, awe, mystery, reverence and belonging
- Allow each individual to feel safe and secure in expressing their own beliefs, doubts, concerns and hopes
- Allow each individual to develop a better understanding of themselves i.e. self-awareness, self-esteem, self-motivation, self-control, self-sufficiency and self-reflection
- Reflect on how the messages given and lessons learnt can impact on their own daily lives
- Provide pupils with the opportunity to feel reinvigorated and impassioned to live out the Christian values in their lives
- To serve the common good by prayerfully and actively seeking and pursuing justice and peace in our local community and in the wider world.

### **St Augustine's Church**

We are blessed to have a close bond with St Augustine's Church. Rev. Ricky Turner leads Collective Worship regularly at school and supports staff in the delivery of Collective Worship. Many Christian festivals are celebrated through special events and services, some of which are held at St Augustine's Church. These are enjoyed and deeply appreciated by the children, staff, parents and carers that attend them.

### **Values**

By following the Imaginor 'Roots and Fruits' scheme, we promote and explore Christian Values as part of our Collective Worship. This helps to shape and form the character of our children and staff so that all can flourish in body, mind and spirit as God intends and learn to live out these values in our daily lives. Our core values are: Love, Compassion, Courage, Forgiveness, Friendship, Generosity, Justice, Perseverance, Respect, Responsibility, Service, Thankfulness, Tolerance, Trust, and Truthfulness.

### **SELF**

'SELF' is a bespoke scheme that encourages children to learn the importance of self-awareness, self-esteem, self-motivation, self-control, self-sufficiency and self-reflection. It is our mission that we build up these community enhancing qualities in ourselves and each other. SELF is delivered as part of Collective Worship once a week.

### **Planning and Organisation**

Planning for Collective Worship follows the cycle of the Anglican year. Each half term, one of the academy's core values forms a focus for Collective Worship. Collective Worship takes place daily and may take place as a whole school, in Key Stages or class groups. Collective Worship may be led by staff, pupils or a visiting vicar/speaker.

*"Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven," Matthew 5:16.*

Collective Worship usually takes place in the school hall but may also take place in various locations such as in a classroom, outside or at St Augustine's Church.

Collective Worship is different to other types of gathering e.g. an assembly, and can be distinguished by the pattern for Collective Worship that is outlined below.

Collective Worship Pattern:

### 1. *Gathering*



The ambience of the worship space, and the greeting of the worship leader, should be welcoming and create a sense of wonder and expectation. Objects, (such as a candle, value poster, Bible or a projected image) may help to focus worshippers; music may be played.

Worshippers should be encouraged to be mindful about what their senses are experiencing - what their eyes see, what their ears hear, what their hearts feel and what their minds think. There should be an atmosphere of calm, order and respect.

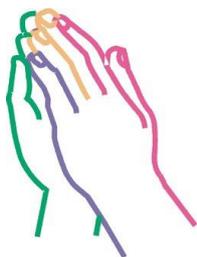
### 2. *Engaging and Learning*



This is the part of Collective Worship where the worship leader will deliver the majority of the input. The theme, which should be of a broadly Christian nature, should be made clear to the worshippers. It should be presented through an engaging, age-appropriate delivery which allows the worshippers to make connections with their own lives.

It may include a range of elements e.g. a short Bible story or passage; anecdotes from personal experience; interaction e.g. role play; visual aids and a hymn/worship song.

### 3. *Reflecting and Responding*



Worshippers should be invited to reflect on elements of the collective worship, such as a Bible passage, and on their own feelings, attitudes and beliefs. They should then have an opportunity to respond; this could be through silence, a prayer, a symbolic action/ritual, talking partners, listening to music or maybe a personal commitment to a practical action. A final thought may then be shared. (Note: Worshippers should never be instructed, or feel compelled, to respond

in a specific way.)

### 4. *Sending*



The ending of collective worship should be full of purpose. Worshippers should feel reinvigorated, strengthened and determined to go out into the world and carry on with God's plan for their lives. They should have a renewed sense of mission and focus. Collective worship may end with a closing prayer; a symbol

*"Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven," Matthew 5:16.*

or ritual being performed (such as the extinguishing of a candle); or with music playing as worshippers leave.

### **Pupil Involvement**

We believe that it is important that our children play an active part in the leadership, planning and delivery of Collective Worship. Our Year 5 Worship Team lead prayers, light the candles and organise the music and slides needed for our whole school collective worship. Our whole school Worship Team, with the help of our Worship Leader, plan and lead worship on a half termly basis.

### **Inclusion**

At St Augustine's Academy we embrace equality of opportunity for all and are committed to inclusion regardless of race, gender, cultural background, ability or any physical or sensory need. We therefore aim to make Collective Worship accessible to all and accommodate our Collective Worship to individual needs as appropriate.

### **Review and Evaluation**

Reviewing of Collective Worship is carried out by Senior leaders, Governors and the school's Worship Leader. The aim is to record and celebrate the Collective Worship that takes place at St Augustine's, identify the training needs of those leading Collective Worship, and understand its impact upon our pupils. A bespoke 'Collective Worship Review' proforma has been created in collaboration with Rev. Ricky Turner to provide focus for those reviewing worship.

Evaluations of the impact of Collective Worship and its future development are reported to Governors through Headteacher's Reports and Governor Visit Reports.

### **Reflection**

In addition to Collective Worship, a culture of personal reflection has been built into all aspects of our school life and time and space is given to its promotion. Bespoke Reflection sheets have been created by which to gather the thoughts and insights of Governors, staff, pupils, parents, carers and visitors to our school. Reflection sheets focus on all areas of school life, from the welcome that visitors receive as they enter our school, to reflections on school trips and visits. We use these reflections to help identify the impact that being a church school has on our whole school community and as an aid to planning for our future school development.

### **Mindfulness**

Mindfulness is 'an awareness of ourselves and our world around us'. Staff and pupils at St Augustine's are encouraged to appreciate the contemplation, stillness and refocussing that mindfulness brings. Mindfulness is built into various parts of the school day and may also be built into Collective Worship as a tool to aid reflection and calm.

*"Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven," Matthew 5:16.*

## Implementation

The implementation of this Collective Worship policy is the responsibility of all those leading Collective Worship at St Augustine's Academy.

This policy will be reviewed on a bi-yearly basis.

**Approved by:** Carole Hegley

**Date:** 08.05.19

**Next review due** May 2021  
**by:**