

**ASTON ALL SAINTS C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL**  
**A school in the Diocese of Sheffield Academy Trust**

Worship Policy

Date: May 2018

Review Date: 2019-20

“The Christian ethos is at the heart of all we do in school and underpins all our aims.” It is our aim that every member of our school community feels valued and respected and that each person is treated fairly and well. We are a caring community, whose values are built on mutual trust and respect for all. The Worship Policy is therefore designed to support the way in which all members of the school can live and work together in a supportive way. It aims to promote an environment where everyone feels happy, safe and secure.

We have an act of worship so that we have time together to worship as a school family.

Through the daily act of worship we aim to:-

- Develop an understanding of the teachings of Jesus and their relevance in today's world
- Encourage and foster the idea of a loving, caring school community where there is self-respect and respect for one another
- Value individual gifts and talents
- Help children to understand and respect other faiths and see the similarities between these faiths and Christianity.

How we plan our act of worship and assemblies

An act of worship is held each morning: four mornings for whole school and one morning where infant and junior departments meet separately.

The Act of Worship is led by different staff in school through the week. This will usually be the Head Teacher and a member of the leadership team. In turn, class teachers lead a special mentions assembly with their own class which follows the whole school chosen focus for any given term.

The priest or curate from Aston All Saints Church leads an Act of Worship each week.

A plan for each half term's Acts of Worship is drawn up at the beginning of the school year. This follows the Christian Calendar and includes chosen themes for each half term. These themes often link to the chosen Christian values of the school.

Children regularly take part in and help to lead daily Acts of Worship by reading, acting out passages from the Bible, writing and reading the prayer and responding to the

worship by answering questions placed in the hall following some acts of worship. Other visitors are welcomed in to school to lead assemblies. These are usually from other local churches or Christian based groups.

Once a term, everyone in school walks to Aston All Saints Church for the morning Act of Worship. This is usually planned and led by the children from the Worship Committee.

Parents are welcomed to class assemblies and the half termly Eucharist or family Services through the school year. At these assemblies and services, parents and visitors are invited to stay for tea and coffee and share in fellowship together.

### Format of Acts of Worship

- As the children arrive in the hall for assembly, music is playing to create a calm, welcoming atmosphere. The music is chosen by different classes in turn. The title and composer is displayed to inform children and / or children from the class explain their choice. This is organised by a child in Y6.
- A candle is lit to mark the start of the Act of Worship. This is usually lit by one of the children.
- A hymn is sung during the Act of Worship
- Prayers are said and time allowed for personal reflection. The Lord's Prayer is said at the end of most Acts of Worship
- The teaching, Special Mentions or story follows.
- The candle is blown out at the end of the Act of Worship at which ever point this occurs in the assembly: ie in special mentions this is before the celebration of children's work or achievements.
- The morning's music is played again as the children leave the hall.

### Eucharist

A Eucharist or family service is held at the end of each half term. All the children are involved, junior children using service sheets. All the children sing the responses and the infants sing during the Communion.

- The School Orchestra plays for the hymns and gives a short recital at the end of the service. The infant children sing and play instruments during communion.
- Classes take turns to lead the Ministry of the Word in the Eucharist. Parents, visitors and the Aston Church Community are invited. The Lord's Prayer, the Gloria and the Sanctus are sung within the liturgy and "Shalom" is used in "The Peace".
- The children take a full and active part in the Eucharist contributing music, altar frontals, dance-drama, commentary, readings and prayers: receiving a blessing or taking communion as appropriate.
- Year 6 children announce the hymns, lead prayers and guide the congregation through the service.
- There is a school Worship Committee with children from Y2 to Y6 being represented. These children help to plan and lead assemblies through the school year as well as supporting with the development designing and analysis of pupil

surveys to help shape worship in school.

Monitoring and reflection

Visitors to class assemblies, Eucharist and family services are invited to write down how the worship has made them feel. This information is a valuable source of evidence to show the impact of worship on the school community as well as providing ideas for future worship in school.

Children's responses to daily Acts of Worship are also collated and the results of surveys carried out with children and parents are used to monitor and evaluate the impact and effectiveness of worship at Aston All Saints Church of England School.

Signed.....

Date.....