

**ALPINGTON & BERGH APTON
CHURCH OF ENGLAND V.A.
SCHOOL**

**COLLECTIVE WORSHIP
POLICY**

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Alpington and Bergh Apton CEVA Primary School

Collective Worship Policy

Introduction

This policy was written by a working party including staff, governors and follows advice from the Diocese. It explains the policy for collective worship at this school and how we interpret the legislation set out by the government.

The legal requirements for Collective Worship

The 1988 Education Act stated that:

- all pupils must take part in a collective act of worship every day
- the act of collective worship may be as a whole school or in different age groupings
- it may happen at any time of the school day
- it has to take place on school premises (In an aided school the Governors can make arrangements for worship elsewhere on special occasions e.g. the local church. In a controlled school acts of worship may take place off school premises but these should be in addition to the statutory acts of collective worship on the premises).
- the Head teacher is responsible for ensuring the legal requirements for Collective Worship are met. (In an aided or voluntary controlled school the responsibility for securing daily acts of worship lies with the governing body after consultation with the Head teacher).
- the character and content of collective worship in these schools continues to be determined by governing bodies in accordance with their Trust Deeds.
- all staff, including the Head teacher have the legal right to withdraw from the Act of Collective worship. The head teacher remains responsible for finding someone suitable to organise and lead the acts of worship. (The right to withdrawal does not extend to staff in Aided schools.)
- all parents have the right to withdraw their children from Collective Worship, wholly or partially. The school's responsibility for the child's health and safety is still paramount.

The DFEE circular 1/94 adds to the legal requirements of the Education Act although these are not an authoritative legal interpretation; this would be a matter for the courts.

The booklet '**Towards Realism and Consensus**' explains the Norfolk view on Collective worship and seeks to put the legal requirements into perspective and enable all schools to fulfil the law in a way that is suitable for all pupils and in a way that adds to their overall development.

The aims of Collective Worship at Alpington

The government requires all schools to provide an act of Collective worship. At Alpington we acknowledge that our school community is not a 'worshipping community' in the same sense as a local church.

We provide daily acts of Collective Worship, however, which we believe help children understand some of the features of worship in a believing Christian community. These are:

- praise
- reflection
- celebration
- thanks
- saying sorry
- sharing

We have chosen these elements because we believe they are also important features of our everyday life in school and are therefore appropriate responses for all pupils and staff in our community.

The law also requires us to provide pupils with an opportunity to worship God as part of our Collective Worship. We therefore try to provide an opportunity to respond in the form of a time of quiet reflection at some point in each act of collective worship. This time may involve spoken prayers but more often a time for each pupil and adult present to be quiet and think about what they have heard; this will provide opportunity for each to worship God if they should wish to do so.

The approach to Collective Worship at Alington

The acts of collective worship are planned to give pupils a variety of experiences to enable them to reflect on, and respond to, things which we, as a school community, believe are important. These experiences will include:

- the telling of appropriate stories (Biblical, moral, multi-cultural)
- drama
- dance
- poetry
- music
- mime

The organisation of Collective Worship at Alington

There is an act of Collective worship every day following the pattern shown below:

DAY	GROUP	TIME	LEADER
Monday	Whole School	10.00 – 10.20	Staff / Visitor
Tuesday	Class / Key Stage	Flexible	Staff
Wednesday	Whole School Open Book - fortnightly	10.00 – 10.20	Open Book Team
Thursday	Whole School Celebration CW	10.00 – 10.20	Head teacher
Friday	Class / Key Stage	Flexible	Staff

Collective acts of Worship follow a half – termly rolling programme of Christian themes based on the ‘Values for Life’ scheme of work. Staff supplement this scheme with their own or other published materials which uphold the theme and support the aims of the school. Allowances are made for marking Christian festivals or other newsworthy events or for learning about charities supported by the school.

The theme for the half term is displayed in the main school corridor on our Collective Worship board and table. Pictures, photographs and captions are used to encourage the children to think and reflect on the current theme. There will often be an interactive element to this display, where the children can record their thoughts and feelings.

Whole school Collective Worship is usually led by the Head Teacher or another member of staff. We also invite visitors from the local and wider community to lead our Collective Worship.

Once a fortnight, on a Wednesday, the Open Book Team leads Collective Worship. For these sessions, Bible stories are retold by Rev. Knight and a team of local Christians, using drama and props, such as puppets.

Celebration Collective Worship on a Thursday is an opportunity for the whole school to come together to celebrate achievement in the school, whether it be social, behavioural or academic. We also celebrate children’s birthdays during this time.

Acts of worship, to which families are invited, are held either in St. Mary’s Church, Yelverton or at St Peter and St Paul’s Bergh Apton three times a year to celebrate Harvest Festival, Christmas (Christingle service) and Easter. Parents are invited to Collective Acts of Worship in school on an occasional basis.

We actively encourage children to be involved with and lead Collective Worship. They compose and read their own prayers, take part in drama as well as choose music and songs.

Resources for Collective Worship

We mainly use the ‘Values for Life’ materials. The themes of this resource link to the SEAL programme of PSHE materials. Other resource books are available in the staffroom, or material may be downloaded from relevant websites.

We have a wide range of songs and CDs for Collective Worship. Singing is sometimes accompanied by staff playing the piano or guitar.

Withdrawal

Parents may ask for their child to be totally or partially withdrawn from Collective Worship in accordance with the Education Act. They are advised of this right in the School brochure and asked to contact the headteacher to make arrangements. No reasons have to be given but discussion with parents over the issues concerning withdrawal are recommended in Circular 1/94. Staff also have the right to withdraw. No pupils or staff currently withdraw.

SIAMS (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools)

In VA schools like Alington, Collective Worship will be inspected on a regular basis through a Section 48 inspection. It is the responsibility of the Governors to organise this in liaison with the Head teacher. The Diocese offers assistance and support with the arrangements.

Reviewed by Staff – May 2015

Date of next review – November 2018

Signed: