Collective Worship Policy

St Agnes C of E Primary School

Approved by:	Mrs Sue Gittins
Last reviewed on:	September 2026
Next review due by:	September 2027

Collective Worship Policy

Our Vision and Mission Statement

'Learning together in God's Love'

Our Christian Vision
St Agnes is an inclusive Christian family, we want our children to:

- Learn together with respect, patience and kindness
- **Treat each other as they would like to be treated (Matthew 7v12)**
- Flourish in education and friendships
- **Live life in all its fullness (John 10v10)**
- Be proud of themselves and others
- Ensure everyone is treated equally

Through the range of experiences we offer to all our pupils we encourage an understanding of the meaning and importance of faith and promote all the Christian Values. We particularly focus on Responsibility, Creativity, Forgiveness, Perseverance, Hope, Thankfulness and Friendship. These Christian values form the basis of our vision and are embedded throughout our school life and underpin all our teaching.
St Agnes is a small school that supports our community by providing an education of the highest quality within the context of Christian belief and practice. We work closely with our families to ensure they are fully supported and cared for.
We expect everyone at St Agnes C of E Voluntary Aided Primary School to follow 'The Great Expectations' –

Be Safe
Be in the right place at the right time
Do your best
Handle your emotions
Use appropriate language
Cooperate
Respect everyone and everything

Aims and purpose

The aims and purpose of collective worship are:

- to provide an opportunity for the children to worship God;
- to build up an understanding of their relationship with God;
- to celebrate all that is of value in life, truth, love, goodness and honesty;
- to explore the mystery and important questions about life and creation;
- 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;
- to teach children how to worship.

Collective worship

We understand worship to be a special act or occasion whose purpose is to show reverence to God. Collective worship involves all members of the school coming together and participating in an assembly. We expect everyone to take an active part in the assembly.

In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act, which states that collective worship should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character', we normally base our collective worship on the teachings of Christ and traditions of the Christian Church. However, we conduct our collective worship in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs of all members of the school.

While the majority of acts of worship in our school are Christian, we also hold collective worship that reflect other religious traditions that are represented in the school and the wider community.

Organization of collective worship

We hold a daily act of collective worship in our school, which is normally a whole-school.

We conduct collective worship in a dignified and respectful way. We tell children that collective worship time is a period of calm reflection. We regard it as a special time and expect children to behave in an appropriate way. We ask them to be quiet and thoughtful and to listen carefully to the teachings and participate fully in prayer and hymns. We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music and sometimes candles or other objects that act as a focal point for the attention of the children.

The Headteacher or other members of staff normally conduct collective worship, but sometimes local clergy or other representatives of local religious groups conduct them instead.

We take the themes of our collective worship from the 18 Christian values and traditions of the Christian faith and we often reflect the festivals and events of the Christian calendar. Sometimes the themes of our collective worship reflect and build on topics that we teach as part of the school curriculum. We plan our collective worship as part of a series of themes well in advance of the day they take place.

Our collective worship reflect the achievements and learning of the children. Each week we hold a celebration assembly. This occasion offers an opportunity to acknowledge and reward children for their achievements both in and out of school. It plays an important part in promoting the ethos of the school, which is that all children are valued and all achievements are recognised. St Agnes School is a successful school and we celebrate the successes of all children in these collective worship. Children are encouraged to demonstrate their musical skills by playing in the celebration assembly.

We invite parents to a Class Assembly once a year and we encourage them to attend, as this promotes the community spirit of the school and is a practical

demonstration of the way the home and the school work together to support the achievements of our children.

Eucharists are celebrated on the following occasions:

- Christmas
- St Agnes Day
- Easter
- Summer
- Leavers' Service in July

Each year the children take part in the Harvest Thanksgiving Service. Families are invited to send contributions which are distributed to those in need in the Parish and locally including, the Booth Centre at Manchester Cathedral and a local women's refuge.

At Christmas Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 present a Nativity for parents and friends whilst Key Stage 2 children take part in a traditional Carol Service.

Prayers are said before lunch and at the end of the school day. These prayers are said in the classrooms.

Children in Year 5 and 6 are expected to prepare the hall for worship by arranging the furniture, lighting the candle and organising the music and notices on the board.

Right of withdrawal

We expect all children to attend collective worship. However, any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from attending religious worship and the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during the period concerned. Parents do not have to explain or give reasons for this. This complies with the 1944 Education Act and was restated in the 1988 Education Reform Act.

The Headteacher keeps a record of all children who withdraw from collective worship.

Review

This policy will be reviewed annually or before if required by changes in legislation or by Diocesan recommendation.

Role of Senior Leadership Team

The senior leadership team will communicate and monitor policy to practice by support and providing examples of good practice for colleagues and leading by example.

Data Protection Statement

The procedures and practice created by this policy have been reviewed in the light of our Data Protection Policy.

All data will be handled in accordance with the school's Data Protection Policy.

Data Audit For This Policy					
What ?	**Probable Content**	**Why ?**	**Who ?**	**Where ?**	**When ?**
Child's Name	Name	Well-Being of Your Child Communication	All Staff (Where Necessary)	Work is sent home or shredded	Kept in children's file or sent home.

As such, our assessment is that this policy:

Has Few / No Data Compliance Requirements	**Has A Moderate Level of Data Compliance Requirements**	**Has a High Level Of Data Compliance Requirements**
✓		