

Anglican Collective Worship **in Church of England Schools**

With grateful thanks to all the Collective Worship leaders who shared their thoughts and ideas to create this document.

SIAMS evaluation schedule Strand 6 - *The impact of collective worship*

- b) Enables all pupils and adults to appreciate that Christians worship in different ways, for example using music, silence, story, prayer, reflection, the varied liturgical and other traditions of Anglican/Methodist worship, festivals and, where appropriate, the Eucharist.

Anglican Worship

The word “Anglican” simply means “of or relating to England or the English.”

The Anglican ethos has often been described in the Latin phrase, *via media* (middle way).

The desire of the early Anglican reformers was to stay true to the ancient traditions of the early church but in a way that was accessible and relevant to the people of 16th century England.

So right at the heart of Anglican Christianity is a desire to be simultaneously *rooted and relevant, ancient and modern, traditional and innovative.*

Therefore, Anglican collective worship in schools should be rooted in the traditions and practices, both ancient and modern, of the Church of England, whilst ensuring it is relevant and reflective of the context of each school community.

Does the worship in school reflect the patterns of worship in your local church?

E.g. Do the congregation stand to say the Lord’s prayer? What version do they use?

Could there be some songs that are sung in both places?

Does the worship reflect other Anglican traditions that aren’t represented by your local church?

Could there be a variety of songs and visitors into worship?

Liturgy

Anglican Worship has a clear liturgical pattern. What is the pattern of worship in your school? What do you say or do within each act of worship, that the children will recognise? (e.g. Light the candle, say a familiar greeting, say your school prayer together)

All acts of worship should follow this pattern: Gather, Engage, Respond and Send.

Anglican worship begins and ends with liturgical greeting.

e.g. The Lord be with you, and also with you.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Share The Peace together, *‘Peace with be with you.’ ‘And also with you’*

Say 'The Grace' together,
May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with us all,
now and evermore.
Amen.

Taken from 2 Corinthians 13.13

During prayer time, could a response be used between prayers or after the prayer has been said?

For example: 'God of love, hear our prayer'

Liturgical calendar

<https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/worship-texts-and-resources/liturgical-year>

Worship should follow the pattern of the Liturgical calendar. How does your school do this? Do the children know why the colour of the altar cloth changes?

From earliest times the Church has gathered on Sundays to celebrate the good news of Jesus Christ. Over time an annual cycle of Christian memory-making has also developed, which allows us to remember his life, death, and resurrection; to celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit; and to recall the ministry of the holy people who have spread the Christian faith over the centuries.

Through the structuring of our Christian memory, the past is able to come into our present.

The liturgical or Church year is divided into several seasons. It begins with Advent, which looks forward to Christmas. The visit of the wise men to Jesus is remembered at Epiphany, after which there is a period of 'ordinary time'. The six weeks of Lent prepare us for Easter, which celebrates Jesus's resurrection, leading forward to his Ascension and the gift of the Holy Spirit to the Church at Pentecost. 'Ordinary time' then resumes until the end of the year.

So-called 'ordinary time' is hardly boring. It allows for more continuous reading from the Bible, for the exploration of other themes such as creation and the environment, and for creative responses to saints' days. (Taken from the Church of England website)

Display ideas from schools:

Coloured bunting, led candle that changes colour according to the church time.

Bike wheel with ribbon wrapped round the spokes to represent the different seasons.

Display in the hall, with an arrow pointing to the season.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JPTWq1AsCao> Godly Play story – 'The Church year'



Most Anglican congregations will hold a Eucharist service at least once a week. It is the service in which Christians follow Jesus' command to his disciples to share bread and wine in remembrance of him.

Are the pupils aware of the central importance of the Eucharist / Communion to Christian worship? How could you do this in your setting?

Why do Christians want to remember Jesus and his sacrifice every week?

- During Holy Week, the vicar could reenact the story of the last supper and link it to the service held today in Anglican churches.
- Once a year a Eucharist service could be held, where all those who are confirmed, including staff, are invited to take Communion. This must be led by a member of clergy.
- Is Eucharist mentioned at other points of the year through worship? For example, at Christmas time, many Christians will go to Midnight Mass.

How do you prepare the space for worship?

Are the children welcomed into worship – how could this be done? By who?

How is a worshipful atmosphere created? Music, focal point, image on screen, use of lights, expectations of noise from pupils and adults.

Is there a focal point for worship – altar, coloured cloth, cross and Bible? Flowers?

To prevent a 'rush' in setting up worship, could the teacher who is responsible for leading and their class come early to the space to set up. The class can support the teacher and help get the space ready for the rest of the school.

Is the Leader present at the start of worship? Do the other adults in the room support the calm, welcoming atmosphere?

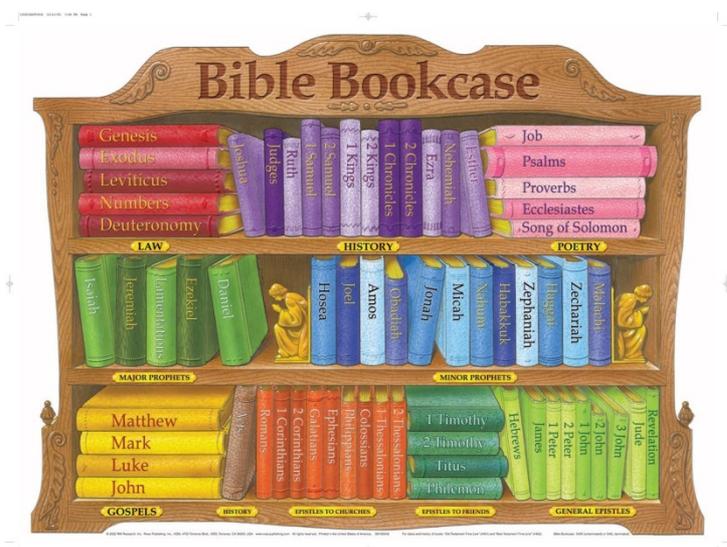
Reading the Bible

Where is the Bible kept? Does where and how it is kept reflect the importance of the text to Christians?

Do the children know that story or verse is from the Bible?

e.g. Bible is opened at the relevant verse or story.

On PowerPoint screen – put the Bible verse up and a list of the books of the Bible with an arrow to the one the verse/story is from. Link to UC big frieze if appropriate.



The Trinity

Is the Trinity mentioned and referred to? How could you do this?

Light three candles during worship.

'We light these candles in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.'

(Image from Colliers Green CEP)



Are the children allowed to leave worship – leave when you ready?

Does Class worship match the **pattern and structure of whole school worship**?

<https://www.canterburydiocese.org/childrenandschools/collectiveworship/fresh-approach/>

See the resources on this page for further guidance.

<http://finboroughprimary.co.uk/collective-worship/>

A great example and description of Anglican Worship