

Collective Worship Policy



***“Learning for life,
building a firm foundation”***

Reviewed: October 2023

Headteacher: Lisa Harrison

Signed:

Vision and Values

In our school, our Christian vision shapes all that we do: ***Learning for life, building a firm foundation.*** The route to our vision is guided by our Christian values of ***Love, Truth, Peace, Faith*** and ***Hope.***

We are stimulated and inspired to flourish by the guiding words of Jesus in Matthew 7:24 'The Wise and the Foolish Builders', "Everyone who hears these things I say and obeys them is like a wise man." Our vision encourages children and adults of all faiths and those of no faith to live, grow and learn together by using the example of the wise builder. This inspires children and adults to listen to guidance and learn from mistakes.

Policy Statement

In All Saints CE Primary School and Nursery, worship is central to the life of school and is one of the main platforms for exploring the school's vision and Christian values. It is well planned and of high quality so that the whole school community is engaged on a journey of discovery, exploring the teachings of Jesus and the Bible.

The school's vision and values are central to collective worship as the beating heart of the school. The themes of our worship are planned around our vision and our Christian values. Our vision and values are illuminated through stories from the Bible and everyday life.

For Christians in Church, worship is about honouring God and responding to the loving nature of God as revealed through the Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. A school is not a Church but is a collection of people who come from a variety of backgrounds for the purpose of education. The family backgrounds may be very different and collective worship must take account of the varied circumstances of staff and pupils.

At All Saints CE Primary School and Nursery, collective worship aims to be inspirational, invitational and inclusive and will lead people to a threshold where they can witness worship and join in, if they wish.

Church of England Guidance

The Collective worship policy at All Saints CE Primary School and Nursery draws on guidance from the Church of England¹. This guidance document has been produced to challenge, to guide and set expectations for Church school communities and diocesan authorities, encouraging them to reflect on their practice and to ensure that collective worship remains the relevant and essential component of an education that enables all pupils to flourish.

Inclusion

At All Saints CE Primary School and Nursery, children are encouraged to take part in a daily act of Collective Worship irrespective of their race, gender, disability, age and faith. In situations where this might not be appropriate, we recognise that parents have a legal right

¹ <https://www.churchofengland.org/about/education-and-schools/church-schools-and-academies/collective-worship>

to withdraw their child from acts of worship and in these cases, circumstances should be discussed with the headteacher so that an agreement can be made.

Parents are invited to share in worship throughout the year, both at school and in church. Staff are actively encouraged to participate in and lead the daily act of collective worship.

Visitors, including representatives from the church regularly lead collective worship. A variety of different ways and approaches to worship are demonstrated and actively encouraged.

Collective worship takes place in a variety of places in school. These include: the school hall, the Peace Garden, the reflection garden and classrooms. Worship also takes place in church from time to time.

Aims

Collective Worship is at the heart of All saints. It happens on a daily basis in many different forms. It contributes significantly to the ethos and values of our school. For the whole school, we aim to:

- Share and celebrate our church school values
- Explore the world in which we live together
- Explore the Christian faith
- Develop a community spirit
- Celebrate festivals and special times
- Be invitational, offering an opportunity to take part whilst allowing the freedom for those of other faiths and none to be present with integrity

Collective Worship that is personal to our school also contributes greatly to the development of both pupils' and adults' Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development by providing opportunities to:

- Worship
- Consider spiritual, moral, social and cultural issues
- Develop our spirituality
- Reinforce positive attitudes
- Participate in whole school or group discussions
- Reflect on our role within the world
- Develop a broader understanding of British values

Leadership, Planning and Organisation

Collective worship is led by the headteacher, teachers and teaching assistants. There is a whole school act of collective worship each week. Each key stage meets together for an act of worship on a weekly basis. On the days when a class is not involved in the key stage act of worship, classes experience an act of worship led by their teacher or teaching assistant.

The headteacher plans the programme of daily collective worship and provides guidance and resources to support staff to lead. Pupils are becoming involved in planning and delivering collective worship, guided by a member of staff. From time to time, a representative from our church leads collective worship that is based on the themes and values that are planned by the headteacher.

Worship spaces are made special through the use of candles, Christian signs and symbols and music.