



Collective Worship Policy

Approved by Governing Body on:	19 th March 2026
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Review cycle	Annual
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School Vision

Our school Christian vision **“learning with love and laughter”** is underpinned by the belief that every day is a gift from God to be lived in joy. **“This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.”** Psalm 118:24

Our biblical values of love, respect and forgiveness mirror our understanding of the relationship between God and people, and are integral to everything we do, creating a learning environment where every person is loved and loving, respected and respectful and can give and receive forgiveness.

Introduction

At All Saints Infants School, collective worship is more than a statutory requirement. It is central to the life of the school and it is the main platform for exploring the school's vision and values. It shapes our approach to others and to all that we do in school. It aims to be inspirational, invitational and inclusive, providing an encounter with God whilst allowing the freedom for those of other faiths and none to be present with integrity. Everyone in the school community is warmly invited to attend our family service at All Saints Church every Friday morning at 8.40am.

Our collective worship provides children and staff with the opportunity to:

- celebrate success and special occasions
- experience a safe and peaceful environment to enable stillness, prayer and reflection.
- nurture spiritual growth by encouraging a reflective approach to life including the exploration of deep questions
- appreciate that Christians worship in different ways, for example using music, silence, story, prayer, reflection, as well as through the varied liturgical and other traditions of Anglican worship
- appreciate the relevance of faith in today's world; to encounter the teachings of Jesus and the Bible and to develop their understanding of the Christian belief in the trinitarian nature of God and its language
- grow in understanding of and participation in prayer or learn Christian prayers and explore using prayer to communicate with God
- explore their own beliefs and develop respectful attitudes towards other peoples' beliefs
- reflect on the beauty, joy and pain found in the world and the spirit of helping others through courageous advocacy
- experience a variety of styles of worship
- participate and respond, through active involvement in the planning, leading and evaluation of worship

The Pattern of Collective Worship

Collective worship takes place every day, as a whole school, either in church, in the infant school or occasionally in the junior school. We regard collective worship as a special time and try to create an appropriate atmosphere using music, candles or other objects that act as a focal point for the attention of the children. Each worship contains four / five elements:

Welcome - We light candles whilst saying our words of welcome.

Learning – Children are provided with a stimulus to engage them in the learning. It is usually based on Christian values, stories and verses from the Bible, but it can also involve learning about themselves and / or others.

Reflecting – Children are given an opportunity to reflect on what they have learnt by sharing their ideas with others or singing a song.

Responding – Children are given the opportunity to pray or reflect on the learning. They may also be provided with the opportunity to take part in an activity outside of collective worship should they wish too.

Sending – We complete our worship by summarising the worship in a meaningful short message and saying our special parting words. A child is selected to put out the candles and the children listen to music as the younger children leave. Those present should leave with a sense of being sent out in the power of God's love.

Planning Acts of Collective Worship

Our acts of worship are carefully planned. The themes of worship are chosen to both express and explore our vision and the way in which this vision is experienced in school through our Christian values. We also use the Roots and Shoots programme for guidance. It identifies a Christian value for each half term and explores the value through Bible stories, artefacts, poetry, photographs, Christian art and the lives of well-known Christians. It also follows the seasons of the Church year and within these significant festivals and other special days are observed. As part of our collective worship, we also cover important days in the calendar such as: Remembrance, Mothering Sunday and the Leavers' Service. Whenever worship takes place, it is planned to promote participants' thinking beyond the time given to worship itself.

Leaders, including the children, plan the content and activities included in worship according to what is most appropriate to the season/theme and the needs of the children. Throughout their time at our school, children will encounter a wide variety of activities such as dance and drama alongside more traditional elements of worship such as prayer and song. We also incorporate elements of worship from different church traditions such as: Mindfulness from Ignatian spirituality, and music and prayers from the Celtic tradition and the world church.

Prayer is a vital part of our worship. It is introduced with a form of words that invites but does not coerce children to participate. Our prayers are addressed to God reflecting the traditions and practices of the Church of England. Children who prefer not to pray are encouraged to use these times to reflect on the important messages shared in our worship.

Our worship is regularly reviewed through discussions with participants, observation and reflection.

Leading Worship

Worship has a variety of leaders from both within school and from the local church community. Children are given opportunities to lead worship throughout the year. Visitors are welcome to contribute to collective worship from time to time and are given guidance from our worship policy. Leaders from faiths within the area help us to increase the childrens' awareness, promote respect and raise the esteem of the pupils who belong to these faiths.

A Legal Note

By law, Collective Worship must:

- be provided for every child every day;
- reflect the school's Trust Deed.

Our policy sets out clearly our aspiration that collective worship will be a valuable and valued experience for all members of our school community whatever their backgrounds and beliefs. It is invitational, inclusive and reflective in nature and never coercive or indoctrinatory.

Families have a right to withdraw their children from all or any acts of worship. Families do not have to give a reason why they wish to withdraw their children from Collective Worship but the request must be made in writing to the headteacher – all requests will be granted without delay.

Monitoring and Evaluation

This policy will be reviewed by the governing body on a triennial basis.