



# All Saints C.E. (A) Primary School

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## COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

### GENERAL PRINCIPLE

Collective worship is central to the life of All Saints CE (A) Primary school.

It allows those present to experience and participate in living expressions of Christian worship that are God centred, affirm Christian beliefs and yet remain inclusive and educational.

Together we celebrate our Christian values, vision and ethos and reflect upon their contribution to the spiritual, moral, social, and cultural development of participants. Worship is inclusive, rooted in the Christian faith, but accessible to all member of the school community. It values and honours every individual's unique contribution, regardless of age, gender, ability, background or beliefs.

We believe that if children **Love**, **Live** and **Learn** they will:

- have the opportunity and support to achieve their full potential in all areas of learning
- have a belief in Christian values and have developed a sense of spirituality and citizenship
- Be safe, healthy and happy, be friendly and able to show respect and consideration towards others
- use their creativity to become confident decision makers and problem solvers
- be valued members of our community and the wider community that they have helped build and develop
- use skills and knowledge to plan the next steps on their learning journey

The Governing Body in conjunction with the Headteacher, staff, and school community have responsibility to ensure the Trust Deed of the School is honoured.

### AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

Collective worship at All Saints CE(A) Primary school aims to

- offer a range of experiences that enhance the spiritual development and response of the school community that are grounded in distinctively Christian teaching
- foster a thought-provoking atmosphere that allows for spiritual reflection and response
- learn about and reflect upon Christian Teaching, Biblical material and Christian festivals, in a way that relates to the pupils' experience and to living together in community
- explore and develop understanding of the Trinitarian nature of Christianity, providing a strong focus on God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit
- create an atmosphere in which faith in God is recognised and respected
- enable learners to develop an understanding of the person of Jesus Christ and the central position He occupies in the Christian faith.
- set the distinctive values of the school in their Christian context
- give a significant place to the Bible relating this to the school's core values and learners' own lives.
- allow learners to explore and enjoy reflection, praise, prayer, and the rituals of Christianity (the Anglican tradition in particular)

- allow participants to respond to a wide variety of stimuli including, for example, praise, silence, songs, art work, technology, guided reflection, drama, music, prayer and their active involvement.
- ensure that worship is appropriate to the age, aptitude and family background of pupils
- foster a search for meaning and values in life and of a faith to live by
- foster empathy and imagination, enabling pupils to participate in a variety of ways whether prepared beforehand or spontaneous
- enable pupils to develop as independent worshippers
- identify clearly the distinctive features of different Christian traditions in worship particularly local Anglican practice, including the Eucharist/ Communion
- Explain the Eucharist
- provide opportunities to understand and celebrate the seasons of the Church year and Christian festivals including local celebrations.
- understand the value of personal prayer and reflection as part of the individual spiritual journey.
- develop understanding of the nature and purpose of prayer and the part prayer may play within an individual's life and spiritual development and in the life of the worshipping community
- choose themes that raise aspirations, inspire a high level of spiritual and moral reflection and challenge learners to take responsibility for their own conduct
- enable pupils to reflect on the experiences of Christian believers
- offer regular encounters with a range of leaders from different Christian traditions
- provide a variety of leaders in sympathy with cultures and beliefs represented in the school community.
- use a variety of settings, timings and environments to enrich worship
- make regular use of All Saints Church and St James' Church for worship
- ensure that worship engages with pupils at the start and provides an appropriate conclusion
- to explore the Christian value of generosity and practical ways in which this can be expressed, in particular in response to current affairs.
- avoid a confessional approach; use owning language such as 'Christians believe that....' then invite all to engage & actively participate

Collective Worship is distinctively Christian, but we recognise the importance of times of assembly which allow the school community to:

- recognise and celebrate the beliefs and culture of others, particularly those represented in the school community
- celebrate achievements of members of the school that are held to be of worth
- reinforce school expectations, behaviour strategies, school routines
- share school and community information

Celebration assemblies are held on a Friday. This is concluded with reflective Worship that encompasses the theme, values and achievements of our school community as a whole.

## **MANAGEMENT OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP**

The Foundation Governors, in conjunction with the Governing Body, Headteacher, staff and school community have responsibility to ensure that the daily act of collective worship is consistent with the principles and practices of the Church of England and the trust deeds of the school.

The headteacher, Mrs Yates and the worship coordinator, Mrs Hill have responsibility for managing collective worship on a day-to-day basis, ensuring all legal requirements are complied with.

This involves the planning of a programme for Collective Worship that ensures continuity, variety and a clear focus on Christian beliefs, teaching and festivals, and the way that these link with the values and life of the school.

A range of members from the school community, including local clergy, contribute to this planning.

Leaders ensure worship is relevant, creative, cohesive and will enrich the spiritual journey of participants.

The themes and values to be explored through worship times will be decided in advanced and shared with staff during half termly staff meetings, pupils through the worship board and parents with weekly prayers in the newsletter .

Records of plans and content are kept centrally in the staff shared area on the computer. It is the responsibility of the worship co-ordinator to ensure that these are kept updated.

Pupils are encouraged and enabled to be involved in acts of worship and have frequent opportunities to do so.

Monitoring and evaluating the impact of Collective Worship is an on-going process that involves input from staff, pupils, parents and governors, and takes place on a regular basis. Feedback provides insight into how worship influences the life of the community and is used to ensure on-going relevance and improvement. Outcomes of monitoring will be reported back to full Governors' meetings. At present we use annual pupil and parent questionnaires as well as pupil voice at school council meetings held every term.

The worship co-ordinators also have responsibility for providing up to date resources and ensuring they are accessible to pupils and staff as appropriate. The budget ensures that the worship programme can be carried out effectively.

The worship co-ordinators keep in touch with development in the subject and acts in an advisory capacity to colleagues, ensuring that worship is prioritised on the School Development Plan, to allow for INSET and resource development.

The Headteacher and worship co-ordinator are aware of the requirements of the section 48 (statutory inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools) inspections with regard to worship, and will ensure that the school is striving to ensure that worship at this school develops and aspires to best practice as articulated in inspection criteria.

## **SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR COLLECTIVE WORSHIP**

- Christian distinctiveness – Christian values to permeate through the whole of school life.  
This is a standing item on the school development plan

## **RIGHT TO WITHDRAWAL**

We recognise the legal right of withdrawal from worship for pupils at the request of parents and for staff, but encourage discussion with the relevant individuals to ensure that there is understanding of the aims and objectives of worship, and strategies for minimising the disruption caused by any withdrawals.

## **CURRENT PRACTICE**

The pattern for worship each week at present is at 10 am every morning .

\*In addition the school worships in Church on the following occasions – Harvest, Christmas Carol Service, Christingle, Easter story told through music word and prayer, End of Year.  
Parents and members of the community are invited on these occasions.  
Visitors and outside speakers are invited to lead our worship on a regular basis.

## **APPENDICES**

Worship Programme - list of themes