



“Let your light shine” Matthew 5:16

Governor Policy 6 – COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

POLICY AND TERMS OF REFERENCE DATES:

- **Policy and Terms of Reference first agreed September 2016**
- **Review undertaken by Ethos Committee and Worship Group**
- **Policy Review Period: biennially**
- **This revision: October 2022**

Introduction

All Saints School is a Church of England Voluntary Controlled School.

At All Saints, Collective Worship is an integral part of school life that both reflects and explores the school’s distinctive Christian character and contributes to the academic achievement, personal development and well-being of all who attend. Visitors to the school are welcome to join in.

As a Church school, the aim is to nurture Christian values to enable pupils to flourish as individuals and to ensure that they relate sensitively to the beliefs, feelings and sensibilities of others. Relevant issues, founded on a range of Christian values and themes form a basis for worship.

Rationale

This Policy reflects and reinforces the school’s vision – *‘Nurturing hearts; Inspiring minds’* which is underpinned by the Bible quote *“Let your light shine”* Matthew 5:16. At All Saints, by nurturing hearts and inspiring minds, we encourage all pupils to shine in everything they do. The policy is intended to demonstrate the partnership between the conduct and content of school worship and the ethos of the whole school based on Christian values of:

Christian Love	Inclusiveness	Perseverance
Respect	Forgiveness	Thankfulness

Aims of Collective Worship

Collective Worship at All Saints School is planned to be inspirational and inclusive. It should engage everyone and all pupils should be able to talk about the impact it makes on their relationships and on life in the school. Collective Worship will:

- regularly include Biblical material and Christian teaching which explores and relates to the school’s core Christian values.
- have a strong focus on God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit, enabling all to embark on an understanding of the Trinity.
- help all to understand Christian traditions found in the UK and worldwide
- challenge everyone to embark on their own spiritual journey and understand the value of Prayer, Reflection, Stillness.
- contribute significantly to spiritual, moral, social and cultural development by providing “something more than the obvious, something to wonder at, something to respond to”. This is to include the underpinning of British Values.
- be an opportunity to Celebrate and give thanks for achievements within the school, local and international community and occasions of significance, including festivals.
- use visitors, guests and inspirational speakers to engage pupils in Christian traditions and values.

Collective Worship should aim to be an experience that does not offend the integrity of the non-religious or those of different faiths.

Outcomes of Collective Worship

The positive educational outcomes of Collective Worship at All Saints School include opportunities for:

- worshipping God
- the whole community to celebrate
- sharing and experiencing differences
- sharing and reflecting upon things that are significant and meaningful
- developing a culture of learning
- building a sense of group identity
- encouraging a sense of personal and social responsibility

- a break from the 'busyness' of life (for stillness and quiet)
- exploring feelings and emotions
- developing inner awareness and spirituality
- respecting the rights of others
- exploring the worldwide Christian Church
- providing experiences that are relevant to our pupils' ages, aptitudes and family backgrounds
- celebrating all that is good
- expressing thankfulness and joy at simply being alive

Legal Requirements

The law requires the Headteacher and Governing Body of every church school to provide a daily act of Collective Worship, which is in line with the school's Trust Deed and Foundation. Our school meets this requirement.

Withdrawal from Collective Worship

All Saints School seeks to be an inclusive community. However, we respect the rights of parents to withdraw their children from Collective Worship and this is stated in the school prospectus and on our website. The school expects that withdrawal will only be made following parental/carers discussion with the Headteacher followed by written confirmation of withdrawal. The school has a system of suitable and safe supervision of children withdrawn from Acts of Collective Worship. No additional work is set or followed during this time.

All teachers in Voluntary Controlled Schools, including the Headteacher, have the right of withdrawal from the Act of Collective Worship. However, the Headteacher, should he or she exercise this right, maintains statutory accountability for Acts of Collective Worship.

Planning a Collective Worship programme

The Collective Worship programme is coordinated by the Deputy Headteacher and specific time is set aside for planning the programme. The importance of marking out the act of Collective Worship from other assembly activities is recognised by having a cross as a focal point, lighting a candle, saying a prayer, playing suitable music, singing hymns/songs, asking children to reflect quietly.

Each person leading worship is expected to plan the activity with the same degree of thoroughness as any other aspect of their teaching. A structure of planning including 'gathering' 'engaging' 'responding' 'sending' and 'evaluation' is expected. Acts of Collective Worship and to plan themes for the next term. The views of pupils about Collective Worship are sought through the Ethos Group and through Worship Leaders. Pupils are encouraged to be involved in the planning, leading and monitoring of Collective Worship.

The school's Foundation Governors have a role in monitoring Collective Worship through membership of the school's Ethos Group.

The worship programme generally follows themes that are aligned to the school's values but includes a recognition of the church's year and makes space for other national events. A termly timetable may be found in the school office.

There are a number of resources available to form the basis of Collective Worship planning.

Staff and Community Involvement in Collective Worship

Teaching staff, ministers and friends of the school are involved on a regular basis with the worship programme. Other staff and pupils are given the opportunity of being involved in this programme throughout the term.

Summary of All Saints School Daily Pattern of Worship Whole School Worship

Day	Leader	Location & time
Monday	Headteacher	Main Hall 3pm
Tuesday	Vicar Richard/ Mr Budgell / Daniel England Other guests	Main Hall 3:00pm
Wednesday	Worship through Song Class Celebrations	Main Hall 3:00pm
Thursday	Class Worship Open the Book Team	Main Hall 3:00pm
Friday	Headteacher Celebration of learning	Main Hall 3:00pm

Once a week, on a Friday afternoon, the School gathers for worship, when achievements of pupils at the school are celebrated. Staff and pupils may contribute music, drama and dance and pupils demonstrating school values will be celebrated. This worship will normally provide opportunities for spiritual development.

Visitors

Visitors should understand the educational aims of Collective Worship at the school and the need to avoid any proselytising. Attempts to persuade pupils to adopt a particular religious or non-religious belief are not appropriate. In general, the Headteacher is consulted before a visiting speaker is confirmed. Visitors should not

Speak about raising money for any particular cause(s) without the prior permission of the Headteacher.