



All Saints' C E (Voluntary Aided) School

Collective Worship Policy

John 13:34

A new commandment I give you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, so you must love one another.

Loving to learn: learning to love

All Saints' Primary school is a Church of England Voluntary Aided School for children between the ages of five and eleven years. We are passionate about learning and work closely with parents to ensure that all our children fulfil their potential. We aim to educate the whole child, to develop their spirituality and encourage enquiring minds - to allow them to nurture social skills and an understanding of others people needs.

At All Saints we believe each child is unique, created in the image of God, and should be given every opportunity to flourish as they move through the school. It is our belief that the children should be educated in an environment that reflects the gospel principles of love, forgiveness and peace and that Collective worship should be of a Christian nature.

Collective Worship contributes to our Mission Statement and the aims and Christian ethos of the school. It also celebrates and explores the values of our school. Jesus said: "A new commandment I give unto you, that you love one another as I have loved you, that you also love one another."

In our school community, we aim to live by this, by welcoming children and their families from all cultures and faiths.

The school will deliver this by:

- Creating a happy atmosphere for all concerned.
- Developing a partnership between parents, staff and children.
- Fostering strong links between home, school, All Saints' Parish Church and other centres of worship relevant to our school community.

- Placing Christian values at the heart of our ethos and teaching, providing a counterbalance to an increasingly secular society.
- Inspiring a love of learning and educating the child for life.
- Presenting the National Curriculum and Religious Education in a lively and interesting way.
- Helping children to learn that courtesy, good manners and consideration for others are important qualities, and encouraging an appreciation of beautiful things.

AIMS of COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

- To contribute to the Mission Statement and aims of the school
- To create an environment in which children and adults have the opportunity to worship
- To develop knowledge and understanding of the Christian faith
- To promote understanding, respect and tolerance of other faiths, particularly those within our school community, by learning from each other.
- To maintain links with the All Saints' Parish Church and to introduce pupils to the worship heritage of the Church of England
- To worship God
- To contribute to the spiritual and moral development of pupils

Through Collective Worship it is hoped that children and staff will;

- Reflect on the values they live their lives by
- Share worship together as part of the whole school community

- Feel supported by the school during times of difficulty
- Reflect on their own strengths and weaknesses
- Share in the celebration of their own and the successes of others
- Become aware of the Anglican tradition of Christian worship

ORGANISATION and DELIVERY

Collective Worship is at the heart of our school life and the Governors see it as an essential part of all pupils' education. We use a variety of approaches with an emphasis on reflection and an opportunity for teaching, prayer, praise and worship through singing, dance and times of quietness.

The major festivals of Easter and Christmas are celebrated and due attention is paid to the seasons of Lent and Advent together with other events in church life such as harvest thanksgiving. Our school has a close connection with All Saints Parish church and children visit the church regularly to use as a learning resource but also on special occasions to worship;

- KS2 Harvest Festival
- KS1 Christingle Service and KS2 Christmas carol service
- KS2 Easter service

As the many of the children in our school are from non-Christian faith backgrounds, we value and recognise the children's religious upbringings in the following ways by:

- Acknowledging the diversity of the children's faith backgrounds
- Celebrating the main festivals and traditions of those faiths
- Drawing out similarities and differences within those faiths
- Combining in charitable giving to global and local needs

Our pattern of school worship is as follows:

Collective Worship takes place during Worship time. The whole school assembles every Monday and Friday. Worship normally last for twenty minutes. Whole school worship is led by members of the school's Senior Leadership Team, the Clergy, the school chaplain and other members of staff and their classes. A worshipful atmosphere is created by the children entering and leaving the hall quietly with appropriate music playing. Displays and texts are also used to help the children focus on the worship. Parents, Governors and friends are invited to join the school in worship for Class Assemblies and for other special events.

On other days, children experience a variety of styles of worship which are rooted in the Christian faith. One day, children focus on Big Questions, where children look at our world- it's wonders and challenges and ask big questions about key issues.

On another day children learn songs for worship, in a time of prayer and praise.

Children also experience times of worship within their key stage, using a values led approach to explore an aspect of the life and teachings of Jesus. We focus on the values of: Hope, Community, Dignity, Wisdom, Joy and Peace, which are vital to us all, regardless of our faith backgrounds.

Planning and self evaluation of Collective worship

A half-Termly record is kept of themes and acts of worship are evaluated. Monitoring and evaluation is carried out by the Senior Management Team, Chaplain, Governors and Children The Head Teacher is responsible for the implementation and co-ordination of this policy.

Right of withdrawal

We expect all children to attend Collective Worship. However, any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from Collective Worship. In this event alternative arrangements will be made for their child to be supervised. The head teacher will keep a record of all children withdrawn from Collective worship.

This policy was revised and accepted by Governors in December 2019.