

All Saints' C.E Junior School

Collective worship Policy

'Working Together, Valuing Everyone, Learning for Life'

Introduction

Our collective worship policy strengthens and supports the Christian distinctiveness of our school and heightens our sense of community. Collective worship is a highly valued and integral part of our school day, supported by all staff and governors, and is a vital element in offering opportunities for children and adults to develop their own spiritual identity.

At All Saints' CE Junior School, collective worship reflects the variety of traditions found in the Church of England, recognising and following key events of the Christian liturgical year, making an important contribution to the overall spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of the whole school community. Whilst remaining true to our Christian identity, we are sensitive to those whose traditions lie within other faiths, or no faith, and ensure that collective worship is inclusive and invitational for all. Collective worship helps us to live well together and this includes celebrating the central role that each child has to play as they develop their understanding of their place in the world.

Aims and Objectives of Collective Worship at All Saints':

- Encourages children to recognise the place of a Christian faith in the life of people, particularly in the context of a church school.
- Enables children and adults to understand the value of prayer, reflection and stillness and use a shared language around spirituality
- Challenges all members of the school community, of all backgrounds, to understand and embark on their own spiritual journey and developing their world view
- Contribute significantly to pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development; by providing all learners with "something more than the obvious, something to wonder at, something to respond to"
- Allow children and adults to celebrate the part they play in God's world and reflect on spiritual, moral and philosophical issues through a carefully planned sequence of worship themes throughout the academic year
- Is educational and spiritually enhancing, underpinning the spiritual and moral education being given to children
- Develops a sense of self-worth and value whilst fostering the ability to consider questions for which there are no set answers.

At all times, we aim to provide opportunities for collective worship which are **Inclusive, Invitational** and **Inspiring**

To be **inclusive**;

- ❖ Fostering a sense of fellowship by bringing the school community together.
- ❖ Acknowledging that many children and staff will have come from homes with different faith backgrounds as well as homes with no faith background.
- ❖ Understanding that children will be at different stages of their spiritual journey during their time in school; they need space and time to think and ask some 'big' questions, encouraging a reflective approach to life.

To be **invitational**:

- ❖ Offers children the opportunity to worship and creates an atmosphere in which those who wish to worship can do so
- ❖ Be invitational, acknowledging and celebrating the diversity in our school, local and global communities; an experience that does not offend the integrity of the non-religious or those of different faith
- ❖ There will be no compulsion for anyone (children, parents, staff) – to ‘do anything’

To be **inspiring**

- ❖ Encourages children to be creative, questioning and imaginative, within a Christian framework. Also, recognising the importance of experience, personal values and respect for the beliefs of others.
- ❖ Be inspirational and engaging for all children and adults, allowing them opportunities to be able to talk about the impact collective worship makes on their relationships, behaviour, choices and day-to-day lives.
- ❖ Encourages children to become ‘courageous advocates’, speaking out or taking action in support of others

Statutory Requirements

The school has a statutory requirement to hold a daily act of collective worship. The law requires the Headteachers and Governing Body of every school to provide a daily act of Collective Worship in line with the school’s trust deed.

In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act, which states that Collective Worship should be ‘wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character’, we usually base our Collective Worship on the teachings of Christ and traditions of the Christian Church. This also reflects our status as a church school. However, we conduct our assemblies in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs of all members of the school.

RIGHT OF WITHDRAWAL

We expect all children to attend Collective Worship however, parents have the right to withdraw their children. Parents wishing to exercise this right will be invited to discuss the matter with the Headteacher. Children who are withdrawn from Collective Worship will be supervised, however no other form of religious instruction or worship will be offered.

This complies with the 1944 Education Act and was restated in the 1988 Education Reform Act.

INSPECTION:

Collective worship is independently inspected by law under Section 48 of the Education Act 2005 in consultation with the Diocese of Coventry, Statutory Inspections of Anglican and Methodist schools (SIAMS)

ORGANISATION OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Collective Worship takes place each day. The Headteachers, staff, children, Rev Diane Thompson or other visitors conduct acts of Collective Worship. We regard it as a special time and expect children to behave in an appropriate way.

Monday	Whole school Collective Worship usually led by the Headteacher at 10.20am.
Tuesday	Class-based collective worship, following the theme introduced on Monday
Wednesday	Whole school Collective Worship usually led by the clergy or a visitor at 10.20am. Alternatively, if there is not a visitor, singing assembly will take place.
Thursday	Collective worship led by a class of children on a given theme
Friday	Achievement Assembly (including an act of Collective Worship) at 10.20am with all staff.

CONTENT

To ensure that children understand key messages, worship themes are chosen carefully to link with the children's lived experience, their academic learning, the school's Christian vision and associated Christian values. Content may also cover Bible stories, Christian festivals, elements of SMSC learning and other issues important to our school community, which includes learning about traditions from other faiths.

Inspirational collective worship engages the children by making connections to local and world issues, events and causes that are of particular interest to the children, including links to their courageous advocacy projects. Children reflect upon moral values such as compassion, thankfulness, justice, respect, forgiveness and reconciliation. Collective worship themes also allow opportunities for children to develop an understanding of virtues such as resilience, honesty, generosity and integrity, which help to develop character and contribute to academic progress.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES AND SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

The staff and Governors at All Saints' CE Junior School are committed to ensuring that every child in the school will derive some benefit from Collective Worship. Our school worship is about sharing what is meaningful and significant in our lives. It is about sharing our common concerns and responsibilities and developing positive attitudes and values. In line with our Christian Vision, 'Valuing Everyone' – children and adults respect what each member of the school family brings and takes from collective worship.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Evaluation strategies currently used for assessing the outcomes of Collective Worship are:

- Observation of the children's attentiveness and level of interest demonstrated.
- Feedback from pupils
- Staff and Parent's comments

- Observations of the children's general behaviour in and around school and to one another.
- Feedback via School Council and/or other groups.

It is the role of the foundation governors to monitor the policy and practice of Collective Worship. The governors concerned liaise with the Headteachers and will:

- Contribute to the monitoring and evaluation of Collective Worship.
- Provide liaison between school and church.
- Build relationships with pupils to enable them to articulate the value of being part of a Church School.
- Support the implementation of the school's Christian Vision.