



# All Saints Junior School Collective Worship Policy



## Introduction

Under the Education Act 1996, all maintained schools, except maintained special schools, must provide daily collective worship for all registered pupils and this policy sets out the principles by which we undertake this obligation every day of the academic year.

Our school community is one that celebrates religious, cultural and ethnic diversity and encourages dialogue and understanding between all of faith and no faith. We believe that we can all learn from each other and that collective worship is an educational entitlement for all.

In worship we create the opportunity to explore the place of faith in each of our lives, and in the community groups in which we live and circulate. This worship occurs at various times of day - often, although not exclusively, in assemblies and with a mixture of pupil groupings. Through regular acts of worship our school has the opportunity of offering thanksgiving and praise to God through a range of prayerful and reflective patterns. We understand worship to be a special act or occasion whose purpose is to show reverence to God. Consequently, collective worship involves members of the school coming together and participating collectively, representing the heartbeat of the school.

Our worship has 3 underlying principles:

1. It is inclusive and contributes to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of all pupils
2. It is invitational and respects the dignity of all participants
3. It is inspiring and combines a range of experiences

## It is inclusive

Our understanding of Christianity is that it is an inclusive faith which mirrors the attitude of Christ in the Gospels. Thus, we welcome children and staff of all faiths and no faith to our worship. Through their Christian character our acts of collective worship will:

- recognise and celebrate the diversity of cultures, lifestyles and faiths (and no faith) which exist in our school and local community;
- have an atmosphere in which everyone feels valued and safe;
- be appropriate for every student to attend;
- have a standing invitation for all adults working in the school to attend;
- focus on issues and experiences which are relevant to the pupils and
- foster active roles of pupils, parents and members of the local community - in preparation, participation and leadership.

## It is invitational

Acts of collective worship will:

- nurture and maintain the dignity of the image of God in everyone through working for social justice and encouraging pupils to consider the needs of others through charitable service and courageous advocacy;

- nurture reflection, stillness, meditation and prayer;
- provide pupils with (age appropriate) opportunities to explore the spiritual dimension of their lives through music, images and words;
- provide a sense of occasion that is separate from the rest of the school day;
- foster an appreciation of the natural world and our shared responsibilities for maintaining it
- develop clear partnerships between worship in the school and the wider community.

## **It is inspiring**

Our acts of collective worship provide wider opportunities to:

- promote wide ownership of our Christian vision;
- assist learners to have increased awareness and to reflect upon fundamental issues about life;
- enhance, complement and extend curricular work;
- develop learners' understanding of the Christian faith and Church (Anglican) practice through appropriate Biblical and liturgical content;
- encounter and explore Jesus' teachings and the trinitarian nature of Christian faith;
- identify opportunities for Christian celebration which can be associated with other school events;
- Include appropriate references to and elements of other faiths and secular worldviews;
- include opportunities to celebrate the academic, social, personal and wider achievements of pupils;
- A range of people are involved in leading worship, including school leaders, learners, the Vicar of All Saints Church and the local Open the Book Group;
- Timetabling of acts of worship, includes the use of the local church and various groupings of pupils;
- Worship is planned in relationship to our distinctive Christian vision and our associated values;
- Worship is regularly evaluated by a range of members of the school community and
- Opportunities for worship/prayer occur are scheduled across the academic year and occur both in the school building and other settings, such as All Saints Church and Boyne Hill Baptist Church

Our acts of worship are of a clearly Christian character, recognising the diversity of our community. It provides occasions when the school community gathers in a variety of settings where a positive tone and focus for the day can be established. Pupils are given opportunities to reflect on relevant Christian, moral and spiritual issues, drawn from a variety of sources, thereby enriching their experience of life.

Worship is an expression of our Christian vision and is a means of recognising and celebrating our associated values and achievements in their broadest sense. In worship all participants are recognised for their personal achievement, both within school and in the community. Pupils are awarded, in worship, with a range of rewards, thus placing achievement and effort in the Christian context of the school.

Collective worship will:

- be acceptable to the whole community, staff and children
- include a variety of elements at different times
- involve the students
- have a dedicated focus which signifies what is being reflected upon.
- provide a dedicated opportunity for students to reflect/respond to the input
- there is no expectation or compulsion placed on participants
- exemplify 'British Values' appropriately in worship
- provide experience through song and prayer and the Church seasons - Harvest, Advent, Christmas, Pentecost

Acts of worship often include and ritual aspects these are a means of enabling worship and could include:

- Bible stories and other inspirational (whether sacred or secular) readings
- songs, hymns and music
- dance and drama
- prayer and meditations
- creative silence
- artifacts and natural materials
- children’s contributions
- lighting a candle

## Weekly Collective Worship Schedule

Each week, Collect Worship occurs within our daily assemblies and these occur as follows:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Headteacher’s Whole School Assembly	Pause for Thought Class Assembly	Deputy Headteacher’s Whole School Assembly	Open the Book for the Whole School (All Saints Church Group)	Reward Assembly - Whole School Assembly

## Our Values

Each term, we focus on a different core value. Assemblies regularly bring us back to these values and are celebrated weekly.

Autumn Term	Compassion
Spring Term	Wisdom
Summer Term	Responsibility

## Celebratory Services

The school marks key points in the Church year with celebratory services at All Saints Church. These usually contain an introduction or reflection by the Vicar and end with a blessing. These services are celebratory in nature and do not include acts of liturgical worship but, as with our assemblies, do include opportunities for collective worship.

During the academic year, these services are to mark:

- All Saints Day (1<sup>st</sup> November - with contributions from across the Whole School)
- Christmas (led by Year 3)
- Easter (led by Year 4)
- St Peter & St Paul (led by Year 5)
- Year 6 Leavers’ Service

With the exception of All Saints Day, all the services are run twice: once for the school and its pupils and once for parents - twice because of the space limitations of All Saints Church.

Additionally, the Vicar of All Saints Church and other faith leaders are invited into school to speak about key points in the Church and wider faith year from time-to-time.

## Withdrawal of Children from Collective Worship

Given the wholly inclusive nature of our school community, the associated collective worship and its invitational nature, we would hope that no parent or carer would want to withdraw their child from it as it is an integral part of school life.

However, parents/carers can request that their child be totally or partially withdrawn from collective worship if they so wish. To do so, the request must initially be made in writing to the Headteacher via the School Office. The Headteacher would normally invite the parent/carer in to discuss their concerns and to reach a mutually agreed way forward.

Where costs are incurred by the school in making alternative provision for a child who is withdrawn from collective worship, the school reserves the right to pass any associated costs on to the parents/carers.