



St Luke's C of E (Aided) Primary School

Collective Worship Policy

Based on recommended policy from LDBE



Date Adopted: January 2018

Review Date: January 2020

Worship is...

Giving honour and reverence to a supreme being.

Christian worship is concerned with bringing praise, prayer, thanksgiving and adoration to God.

It is an activity of response: in words, actions and thoughts

Aims and Expectations

Collective worship plays a central part in the life of St Luke's Church of England Aided Primary School. As an expression of the Christian ethos and spiritual life of the school, it offers the whole school community opportunities to experience, participate in and take responsibility for the living expression of Christian worship, valued and honoured through the school's Anglican Foundation. This is set within the context of the corporate community of our school and its historic partnership with St Luke's Church, Blakenhall, Wolverhampton. We affirm every individual's unique contribution, regardless of age, gender, ability, background or religion.

Legal requirements:

Trust Deed

Our daily act of collective worship is in accordance with the Trust Deed of the school. This requires worship to be consistent with the faith, principles and practices of the Church of England.

DfES guidance

We also take into account DfES legislation. The following link will take you to the current legislation.
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/collective-worship-in-schools>

1988 Education Act We also take into account the 1988 Education that states,

'.....all pupils in attendance at a maintained school shall in each school day take part in an act of collective worship',

And, that this should be,

'.....mainly of a broadly Christian character'

Worship and/or Assemblies

Here at St Luke's Church of England Aided Primary School we meet together for worship. We meet together once a week – usually Friday, in order to celebrate pupil's achievements. This is known as Celebrate and Praise. This is still regarded as an act of worship through pupils leading prayer at the end of the celebration which they have written in response and celebration of the current worship theme.

Section 48 Statutory Inspection of Anglican & Methodist Schools (SIAMS) All church schools, whether they are Voluntary Aided (VA), Voluntary Controlled (VC) or Foundation (F) will be inspected on collective worship and the impact this has on the whole school community. Here at St Luke's Church of England Aided Primary School this inspection will evaluate the school's/academies collective worship on the following:

- the extent to which learners and adults engage with collective worship, its relevance and the way it makes a difference to the lives of members of the whole school community
- the extent to which collective worship is distinctively Christian, setting out the values of the school in their Christian context
- how well collective worship develops personal spirituality within the school community through a range of experiences, including a focus on prayer
- how well collective worship enables participants to develop an understanding of Jesus Christ and a Christian understanding of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit
- how effectively the school community is involved in the planning, leadership and evaluation of collective worship

The right of withdrawal – see appendix

We recognise the 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

Aims of worship

The gathering of pupils each day incorporates collective worship.

Worship will be:

- Appropriate to the age, aptitude and family background of pupils.
- Provided in a variety of settings, groupings and timings, with a variety of leaders

First Monday of Month or First Monday of Term: Family Worship led by Clergy at 9:00am

Monday: Whole School Worship led by Head Teacher at 10:30am

Tuesday: Year Group Worship led by Year Group Staff at 10:30am

Wednesday: Class Worship led by Class Teacher at 10:30am

Thursday: Sing and Praise led by SLT at 10:30am

Friday: Celebrate and Praise led by SLT at 9:00am

Worship should provide opportunities to:

- enhance the spiritual development and response of pupils
- foster reflection, meditation, prayer and silence
- create an atmosphere in which God is both normal and natural
- foster a reverential attitude to God
- foster empathy and imagination, enabling pupils to participate in a variety of ways
- actively involve pupils in the delivery of worship in creative and imaginative ways (reading, poetry, drama, dance, quiet / silent reflection, prayer, singing)
- explore and enjoy praise, prayer and the rituals of Christianity (the Anglican tradition in particular)
- affirm the Christian faith and the central Christian status of Jesus as the Son of God
- affirm the Christian belief in the Trinity and explore the meaning of each person of the Trinity
- explore Eucharistic worship within the Anglican tradition - taught in RE lessons
- enable pupils to reflect on the experiences of Christian adherents
- foster and value a search for a faith to live by
- explore the schools Christian values to deepen pupils understanding of them and how they relate to the school, local community and wider world
- 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
- worship together rather than apart
- provide an evocative setting for worship that fosters spiritual growth and reflection
- experience a broad spectrum of Christian tradition (various expressions of worship)
- inspire pupils to explore further their own faith and tradition
- encourage pupils and staff to plan, participate and lead in worship
- develop a sense of community and shared values
- consider the needs of others and to foster charitable works
- celebrate the highest achievements of the human spirit
- celebrate achievements of members of the school in every aspect of school life
- foster a thought provoking atmosphere allowing for spiritual reflection and response
- make regular use of local church buildings for worship (as can be arranged as St Luke's Church meets within St Luke's School)

Other opportunities that worship can offer are:

- celebrate achievements of members of the school/academies community
- reinforce school expectations, good behaviour and school routines
- share local school and community information

- celebrate the beliefs and cultures of others particularly those represented in our school

Management of worship

Ultimately the responsibility for collective worship lies with the Headteacher and the Chair of Governors. However the role of planning, resourcing, managing and evaluating worship has been delegated to the subject leader and team for RE, Collective Worship and PSHE. The subject team develop the long term plan for Collective worship. The themes develop the school Rainbow Rules and Values, the teaching of the celebrations and liturgy of the Christian Year and explores aspects of Christian worship. The subject team plan and monitor the delivery of worship to year groups and classes. The Foundation Governors monitor and evaluate worship delivery and provision for St Luke's Church of England Aided Primary School. In addition, as a church school, all teachers are 'spiritual leaders' and have a responsibility to help pupils develop spiritual awareness.

Resourcing worship

Worship will be adequately resourced to ensure that it is regarded as an important part of school life.

Pupils are encouraged and provided opportunities to plan acts of worship for the whole school, so that they have ownership of it. A key worship theme is identified each term and a year group of pupil body ie school council, are invited to plan and lead this. This may link to the RE programme of study for that year group or a specific celebration or project ie Christingle, Bishop's Diocesan Lenten Appeal

Monitoring, evaluating & action planning worship

Worship is monitored and evaluated frequently in order to ensure that it meets the needs of all who take part. All stakeholders opinions are sought. A year group evaluates worship on a weekly basis and all stakeholders are asked evaluation questions about collective Worship during the annual review cycle. A yearly action plan which feeds into the school improvement plan is written and revised termly to ensure that worship remains relevant and up to date.

Management of the Worship Coordinator – Subject Team Leader

This is done by the Headteacher in conjunction with the named link Governor of the Governing Body.

Worship themes and current practice

The worship themes for each week are based around themes which develop the school Rainbow Rules and Values, the teaching of the celebrations and liturgy of the Christian Year and explores aspects of Christian worship. This uses a number of resources. The main resources are Barnabus School's Bible for KS2 and The Lion First Bible for KS1 and FS, purchased books and paper based resources, internet resources

Approved and signed off by

Headteacher/Principal.....

Chair of Governors

(This should be signed off by the Headteacher/Principal and the governing body of the school)

Appendix

Guidance for schools and academies on the right to withdrawal **from Religious Education and Collective Worship** **March 2017**

Collective Worship

The 1944 Education Act gave the right to withdraw from RE or collective worship to parents who wished their children to receive different form of RE or worship. This right is also confirmed in **section 71 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998**. In the case of collective worship, the government guidance document is **Circular 1/94: Religious Education and Collective Worship**.

Collective worship in all Church of England schools and academies should honour the school's trust deed and Christian foundations. Worship is central to school life, offering an opportunity for the whole school community to explore the distinctive beliefs and narrative that underpins the school's Anglican foundations and distinctive Christian character. Worship is the responsibility of the governing body in conjunction with the headteacher, working in partnership with the staff and the local parish church.

Our Church of England schools should strive to ensure they are consistently excellent, distinctive, and inclusive, and that the whole curriculum is underpinned by Christian values. Religious Education is an important part of the curriculum in all Church of England schools and academies. Its nature, objectives, and content should be shared with parents each term to ensure that parents are able to recognise that RE is of educational value to all pupils, whatever their belief background. In the same way, collective worship should lie at the heart of school life, proclaiming its distinctive character and faith in a way that is relevant, inclusive and that leads each pupil a little further in their spiritual journey. In this way, the likelihood for parental requests for withdrawal should be reduced. However, when they are made they must be handled accordingly to the legal guidance, while there is scope for a little realism and adaptability in order to ensure the best for every pupil.

In many of our schools within the Diocese of Lichfield, there is a large percentage of children whose families are members of another faith. It is the purpose and duty of every church school to be distinctive as a Church of England school. In each school, it is part of the mission of the church to welcome those of other faiths and no faith. In most cases, parents will have chosen the school for their child, making a specific choice of the school because of the ethos and education it offers. In a small number of cases, parents of other faiths will have been offered a place at a church school because no other school has a place for their child within a reasonable catchment area.

The right to withdraw from collective worship should be at the instigation of the parents or pupils above the age of 16.

The right of withdrawal from collective worship

The right of withdrawal from collective worship would normally be exercised through the physical withdrawal of the pupil from the place where the act of worship is taking place. Indeed the school could insist that this is the way the right is to be implemented. If, however, both the parent and the school agree that the pupil should be allowed to remain physically present during the collective worship but not take part in it, nothing in the law prevents this.

Experience suggests that, to avoid misunderstanding, a Headteacher will find it helpful to establish with any parent wanting to exercise the right to withdrawal:

- the elements of worship in which the parent would object to the child taking part;
- the practical implications of withdrawal;
- whether the parent will require any advanced notice of such worship, and, if so, how much.

Where parents have withdrawn their children from collective worship and request religious worship according to a particular faith or denomination, the governors and Headteacher will seek to respond positively to such requests providing:

- such arrangements can be made at no additional cost to the school; and
- that the alternative provision would be consistent with the overall purposes of the school curriculum as set out in **Section 1 of the 1988 Education Act. (Circular 1/94)**