



ALL SAINTS' PRIMARY SCHOOL, LEEK WOOTTON
COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

1. INTRODUCTION

All Saints' is a Voluntary Aided Church of England Primary School. This policy outlines the purpose, nature and management of collective worship in our school. It outlines procedures that have been agreed by the whole staff in order to enable us to achieve the school statement:

- Within a Christian framework at All Saints' we aim to challenge and support all pupils to develop their talents and achieve their potential and develop a desire for lifelong learning.. All individuals are valued irrespective of race, gender, culture or faith.
- At All Saints' we aim to provide effective teaching and stimulating learning experiences across a broad and balanced curriculum, within a happy, caring, safe environment which respects the individuality of each child, promotes and provides a healthy and active lifestyle.
- We aim to enable each child to develop the personal and social skills necessary for them to become responsible, active participants in their community through partnerships with home, our Parish Church, the local neighbourhood and the wider community.

Legal Framework

“Collective Worship in a voluntary school has to be in accordance with the schools trust deed and must therefore reflect traditions of the Church of England.”

The Church of England Schools and Colleges Handbook (1992)

The school policy reflects the consensus of opinion of the whole teaching staff. It has been drawn up as a result of staff discussion, contribution and involvement of local clergy and has the full agreement of the governing body. The implementation of this policy is the responsibility of all staff.

2. AIMS

Collective Worship is central to the life of the school. At All Saints' it aims to:

- Provide opportunities for pupils and adults to worship God;
- Encourage the development of wonder, awe, mystery and reverence;
- Develop awareness of a Christian framework for living;
- Develop an awareness of some simple aspects of the Anglican liturgy
- Consider spiritual, moral, social and cultural issues;
- Enable pupils to reflect and explore their own beliefs and the beliefs of others;
- Encourage participation and response through active involvement in the presentation, through listening and joining in worship offered;
- Develop community spirit;
- Promote a common ethos, shared values and reinforce positive attitudes,
- Enable pupils to develop an understanding of the beliefs of some other world faiths and compare the ways in which people with different religious beliefs live their lives.

All Collective Worship is in accordance with the principles and practices of the Church of England.

3. ORGANISATION

Collective Worship is a distinctive part of each day when all members of the school community meet together.

Monday: 9.20 led by a member of the senior leadership team or teaching staff.

Tuesday 9.20 led by a member of the senior leadership team

Wednesday	9.20 led by Head Teacher, local clergy and visiting speakers. Christian in character. Community invited.
Thursday	9.20 Class based reflective collective worship – Welcome, Worship, Word, Witness.
Friday	2.45 Achievement assembly led by Head Teacher. Parents invited.

The Priest in Charge of All Saints' Parish Church is regularly invited to lead Collective Worship and assemblies are held in our Parish Church at least termly. The school has a commitment to ecumenism and invites ministers of other denominations and organisations to lead 'Wednesday Open Assemblies.'

Assemblies are conducted in a dignified and respectful way and are a period of calm and reflection. It is a special time and we expect children to behave in an appropriate way. They are asked to be quiet and thoughtful, to listen carefully to the teachings and participate fully in prayer and worship songs. An appropriate atmosphere is created by using music, candles or other objects that act as a focal point for the attention of the children.

4. CHARACTER OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Worship is defined as an expression of devotion to God. Pupils bring with them a variety of experiences of worship. The school strives to create an opportunity for worship for those able to use it and a learning experience for others. The act of worship is an important stimulus towards the growth of spirituality and the recognition of worth.

Collective Worship may take place as a whole school or as a class. Prayers are said at lunchtime and at the end of each day and in addition an area for quiet reflection linked to the Collective Worship theme is in each classroom.

We seek to include all staff and children as far as possible in terms of attendance at, participation in and leadership of Collective Worship.

If a child is receiving special focused teaching and is not available for the scheduled collective worship there is provision for reflection and prayer at other occasions during the school day.

A two year programme has been developed using 'Values for Life'; a resource developed by Gloucester Diocese and Twelve Baskets materials. This programme combines content which reflects Christian beliefs and values with time to reflect upon the major festivals of world faiths. Moral and social issues are addressed regularly.

Most acts of worship reflect Christian beliefs in a way that is appropriate to the ages and aptitudes of pupils. Assemblies build upon the personal and spiritual experiences of the children.

Monday assemblies introduce the theme for the week. Personal experiences are used as starting points for reflections developing a Christian framework. Tuesday and Wednesday assemblies develop the theme.

Members of the community are invited to Wednesday Collective Worship, which are sometimes led by the children who share the curriculum with family and friends, and local clergy or visiting speakers. The school visits our parish church at least termly.

Singing worship is an important aspect of all whole school Collective Worship and encourages the school community to praise and worship through song.

Thursday Class Collective Worship is an opportunity for a class to join together to reflect upon a theme, to recognise the awe and wonder of our world and to share their responses.

Friday assemblies provide children with the opportunity to celebrate academic and other personal achievements with the school and members of the community.

5. PUPIL INVOLVEMENT

Pupils are involved in Collective Worship through participation in opening liturgy, songs, prayers and interaction. A balance of whole school and class Collective Worship enables children to access different types of reflection. The 'GLOW' – God Loves Our Worship, group comprises of representatives from each class who meet together to plan, organise and deliver a half termly act of worship. They also engage children in evaluating school and class worship.

6. INCLUSIVENESS

Within a Church School Collective Worship is a central aspect of the day. The school strives to ensure that the individual integrity and beliefs of all are respected and hopes that all families feel able to join in this part of the day.

7. PUPIL WITHDRAWAL

Whilst the school hopes that all members of the school community will participate in Collective Worship, it is the right of all parents to withdraw pupils from worship. If parents decide to take this option for their children, the school ensures that the children are adequately supervised, have something purposeful to do and are not made to feel isolated and 'different.'

Parents do not have to explain or give reasons for this. This complies with the 1944 Education Act and was restated in the 1988 Education Reform Act.

The Head Teacher and teachers have the right to withdraw from worship but are expected to supervise children.

The Head Teacher has a duty to ensure that the law on Collective Worship is complied with at All Saints' School.

8. LINKS WITH THE CHURCH- SPECIAL FESTIVALS AND CELEBRATIONS

All Saints' School values the close relationship it enjoys with All Saints' Parish Church. This includes clergy involvement in Collective Worship in school and at least termly visits to church. Throughout the year the school celebrates Christian festivals and special events with the church community in our parish church.

The patronal festival in November is celebrated whenever possible during a shared All Saints' Day service.

The Autumn Term ends with Christmas Collective Worship. The school also joins with All Saints' Church to celebrate the annual carol service on Sunday.

Easter is celebrated through the dramatic representation of Holy Week led by Years 3 and 4.

Our moving on assembly at the end of the Summer Term celebrates individual and group achievements and is an important rite of passage as children move onto new key stages and schools. During this service Year 6 are presented with Bibles by the church community.

9. RECORDING

The overview of themes and specific content is recorded on Long Term and half termly plans. Adults and children are asked evaluate the effectiveness of Collective Worship.

10. MONITORING

The Head Teacher monitors the content and quality of Collective Worship and report findings to the Governors Performance and Standards Committee. Governors make regular visits to school and church to participate in Collective Worship and to monitor its content.

11. EVALUATING AND REVIEWING

Collective Worship is regularly discussed and reviewed as part of staff meetings. The Head Teacher works closely with the RE Subject Leader and PSHE Coordinator to review and evaluate and develop the quality and

effectiveness of Collective Worship. Teachers and children are asked evaluate the effectiveness of Collective Worship Themes through a 'Special Reflections' book each week. Timings, content and music are adjusted in the light of discussion and evaluations. Collective Worship is reviewed as part of the school's rolling programme of policy review.

Review Date: February 2017

Next Review Date: February 2020 or when appropriate following a review of statutory guidelines.