



# Policy for Worship

*Seed fell on good soil. It came up, grew and produced a crop, some multiplying thirty, some sixty, some a hundred times.' (Mark 4.8)*

*All Saints' is a welcoming school community which aims to engage the full potential of all its pupils. Within a framework of Christian teaching, the values of love, truthfulness, forgiveness, kindness, hope and respect underpin all that we do at All Saints'.*

**Review Date: Sept 2023**

**Approved by the Governors: October 2023**

**Next Review: October 2027**

# All Saints' Church of England Primary School

## Collective Worship Policy

### Vision and Aims

**In our school our Christian vision shapes all we do**

**'Seed fell on good soil. It came up, grew and produced a crop, some multiplying thirty, some sixty, some a hundred times.'** (Mark 4.8)

'Collective Worship in a Church school should enable every child and adult to flourish and to live life in all its fullness. (John 10:10). It will help educate for wisdom, knowledge and skills, hope and aspiration, dignity and respect, and developing community and understanding of living well together.

At All Saints' Primary School worship is central to the life of school and is the main platform for exploring the school's vision. It is well planned and of high quality so that the whole school community is engaged on a journey of discovery, exploring the teachings of Jesus and the Bible. For Christians in Church, worship is about honouring God and responding to the loving nature of God as revealed through the Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. A school is not a Church but is a collection of people who come from a variety of backgrounds for the purpose of education. Our family backgrounds are all different and our collective worship takes account of the varied circumstances of staff and pupils.

At all Saints' collective worship aims to be inspirational, invitational and inclusive and we hope to lead people to a threshold where they can witness worship and join in, if they wish.

Through Collective Worship pupils will be offered a space and a place for the telling of the Christian story. They will be offered an understanding of worship through being invited to participate in or observe prayer, reading and reflection on the Bible, liturgy and experience of the musical and other imaginative riches of Christianity. Opportunities to reflect on the beauty, joy and pain of the world will be given. Pupils will be given time to consider their responsibilities to others and to grow in love and service. Time will be given for celebration, both for the accomplishments of school members and to mark the seasonal festivals of the Christian (and other faiths) calendar. Pupils will be offered time to be able to contemplate and develop spiritually.

## Purpose and Implementation

The collective worship policy at our school draws on guidance from the Church of England. To ensure that collective worship remains the relevant and essential component of an education that enables all pupils to flourish.

Collective worship at our school:

- Has a pivotal place in the life of the school.
- Supports pupils and adults in their spiritual growth
- Is a central vehicle by which the school's vision is unpacked and explored so that the whole school community is challenged and engaged.
- Provides an experience of worship that will offer opportunities for those present to observe and/or respond to the presence, power and peace of God as understood by Christians. This will always be invitational, offering an opportunity to take part whilst allowing the freedom for those of other faiths and none to be present with integrity.
- Provides a variety of different opportunities for reflection, understanding of traditions, participation, challenge and enjoyment where all present can be actively involved and develop their own spirituality whilst contributing to the communal journey.
- Help children to become familiar with Christian language and symbolism and the cycle of the Church year.
- Explores a variety of ways of praying, giving children the opportunity to form their own prayers using multi-sensory foci and introduce them to some well know Christian prayers, as well as a variety of prayers of thanksgiving before mealtimes and at other points in the day.
- Offers opportunities to all children and staff to develop their skills in planning, leading and evaluating the impact of school worship with the support and shared engagement of the local church.
- Ensure that materials and themes for worship are carefully selected to make sure pupils understand the work of Christians locally, nationally and globally and how this reflects the teachings of the Bible and the example of Jesus.
- Encourage pupils to be inspired to take positive actions and make a difference in their world.

## Organisation

We hold a daily act of Collective Worship which can be either the whole-school, separate Key Stages or individual classes. These take place in the school hall, classrooms, outside or occasionally at church.

Collective Worship is lead by the Headteacher, SLT or other members of staff, pupils, our vicar and occasionally by other visitors.

We regard it as a special time, and expect children to behave in an appropriate way. We may ask children to be quiet and thoughtful, to listen carefully to the teachings, to reflect, and to participate fully in songs and hymns. Sometimes children are asked to volunteer answers to questions or take part in reading aloud or acting out part of a story. Although participating in prayer is invitational we do expect all children to be respectful for the benefit of all. We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music, candles and other objects to focus the attention of the children. Children will be expected to walk in and out of the hall quietly to allow pupils to prepare and reflect. Music will often be played to create a calming atmosphere.

The Act of Worship, whether in the hall or classroom, will follow a recognisable format:

- The worship should last between ten and twenty minutes, depending on the timetable.
- A candle will be lit to signal the start.
- Worship will have a clear focus connected to the planned theme. The theme will be developed over a period of time, usually a half term. This is often based on a school value and has a theological root. The link to theology is shared with the pupils through Bible stories, quotes and readings. In shorter worship sessions, the focus may allow more detailed exploration of previous whole school worship.
- Elements used in the worship often include music, listening to stories, Bible readings and other relevant passages, poems, use of movement, mime, drama, artefacts and audio-visual materials.
- In longer worship assemblies, there will usually be songs which wherever possible will relate to the theme of the worship.
- There will be a quiet time for reflection and prayer. Prayers may be traditional prayers, teacher lead or the children's own work.
- We use Mirrors, Windows and Doors to help focus the children's learning and future actions.
- The candle being put out signals the end of the worship gathering.

Each classroom has a reflection area for pupils to use. Families are invites to join events at church e.g. Back to school Sundays. There are opportunities for parents to join us in worship throughout the year.

## **Legal Position**

There must be a daily act of collective worship in all maintained schools for all pupils, other than those in a nursery class or a nursery school. This can take place at any time in the school day and in any groupings. Collective worship in a Church of England School must be in accordance with the tenets and practices of the Church of England.

Part of the distinctively Christian nature of Church of England Schools is that they should be as hospitable and inclusive to all in the community we serve. As collective worship occupies such a central place in the life of the Church school, this is discussed as part of the induction, and it is hoped that parents will be making a specific choice of the school knowing that the distinctive ethos will determine a Christian tradition within collective worship. We want collective worship to help create a sense of belonging for all our community.

The 1944 and 1988 Education Acts state that parents have the right to withdraw children from collective worship and suitable arrangements should be made to accommodate these children.

On occasions, a parent may make a request for their child to be withdrawn from Collective Worship. There is an expectation that parents wishing to request a withdrawal will meet with the Headteacher to discuss their concerns and requirements. A written record of the request will be kept to refer to.

## **Monitoring**

The Governing Board have the responsibility for ensuring that the school meets the requirements for worship detailed in the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Evaluation Document. They are also tasked with monitoring and evaluating the impact of worship on the school community in consultation with the Headteacher.