


Title: <b>Collective Worship Policy</b>		
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File Name: Collective Worship Policy		

### **Equality and Diversity Statement**

All Saints' C of E (VC) Primary School, Maldon is committed to treating all members of the community with fairness and respect regardless of their ethnic background, gender, religion, disability, sexual orientation or their socio-economic background. This policy has been written to assist the school community and ensure that as far as is reasonable no child or adult shall be unfairly treated, discriminated against or disadvantaged as a result.

## **Collective Worship Policy All Saints' C of E (VC) Primary School, Maldon**

### **Our Vision:**

**Our welcoming Christian School is a special place. Children are nurtured to become aspirational and responsible individuals, seizing all opportunities to use their God-given talents and abilities to make a positive contribution to the school, the local community and the wider world.**

Several aspects of that vision explicitly shape our collective worship policy:

1. Christian School - As a church school we have an act of collective worship every day. We explore Christian themes and values and build an ethos that supports our distinctly Christian character.
2. God - given talents - We enable children to use their talents as contributors to collective worship. This might be through child led collective worship or as an instrumental part through reading prayers or playing as part of the band. Their talents are also celebrated in collective worship.
3. Local community - We invite visitors from the church community of Maldon to share in our collective worship time. This might include incumbents from different parishes or Churches Together facilitating collective worship such as through the 'Open the Book' group.

### **Aims**

At All Saints' our aim is that collective worship will offer inspiration and provide opportunities for personal learning and reflection alongside shared experiences and celebration. Worship at All Saints' is a quality time, when each child and adult in attendance can appreciate and reflect upon their 'inner shine'. It is central to our school ethos and we recognise that worship can be the heartbeat of the school.

#### **Aims for collective worship at All Saints':**

- reflect the teachings of Jesus
- firm and strengthen Christian values
- celebrate all that is good in the school community
- offer comfort and support in difficult circumstances
- celebrate special times in the Christian calendar
- encourage respect for each other and those in our community
- deepen spiritual awareness

In our school collective worship will make a contribution to:

- **The Children's Experience of the Anglican Tradition** e.g. special services held in the church, clergy coming into school to lead worship, the use of Anglican prayers, liturgy, songs, and the importance of the Bible.
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- **Children's Spiritual Nurture:** e.g. the opportunities for prayer and reflection and how these are developed through the school day and in class settings.
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- **The social and emotional aspects of learning:** e.g. the foundation offered by Christian worship for social and emotional learning in the school.
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- **Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Education,** e.g. the opportunities to share experiences from other cultures and religions, to hear about charity projects and overseas links, to recognise the impact a faith can have on a person's life.

We believe that at All Saints' the whole school ethos and programme of learning contributes to this development. At our school Mr P Brown, our Collective Worship coordinator, has overall responsibility for the day to day delivery of Collective Worship.

## **Legal Background**

### **Requirement for a daily act of worship and right of withdrawal**

- All pupils in attendance at a maintained school should take part in an act of collective worship every day unless the parent requests that the child be wholly or partly excused from attendance at the religious worship in the school.
- The act of worship need not take place with the whole school together but can take place in classes or groups of children e.g. key stage groups.
- Acts of worship should be appropriate for the pupils taking into account their age, aptitude and family backgrounds.
- Parents' have the right to withdraw their child/children from collective worship, and this is made clear in the schools prospectus. It is also made clear to prospective parents, when viewing the school, that the act of worship is central to the life of the school. All Saints' is a Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School where Christian values and principles underpin some aspects of the curriculum. The experience of daily worship by the whole school community is an important part of school life. In order to preserve the distinctiveness of this church school community, we encourage everyone to be involved in collective worship. Aspects of worship such as the saying of a prayer is invitational and this is reflected in how those leading the collective worship invite children to pray. Parents who have concerns about this should discuss them with the Head of School.
- Teachers also have a right to withdraw from worship.

- The daily act of worship should normally take place on the school premises. All schools can now do this elsewhere e.g. from time to time, or on special occasions, the school may wish to hold an act of worship in the local parish church.

### **Responsibility for the arrangements for the daily act of worship**

- Arrangements for collective worship in voluntary schools should be made by the governing body after consultation with the Headteacher.
- It is the duty of the governing body to make necessary arrangements, within the law, for collective worship to be consistent with the purpose of the school.
- The Diocesan Board of Education should be kept fully informed of all matters relating to collective worship in diocesan schools. The diocesan Education team monitors the provision of collective worship in all voluntary schools through SIAMS inspection reports and by direct contact with schools by members of the education team.

### **Curriculum Time**

The act of worship is not designated as curriculum time and should not be counted into any part of the curriculum (e.g. collective worship cannot be counted as part of the RE curriculum).

### **Monitoring and Evaluation**

Evaluation of worship is not easy, but it is vital in order to ensure worship is worthwhile. At All Saints' pupils assigned the role of Faith Friends will evaluate daily acts of worship which are evidenced through engagement with other pupils across the school. The Diocesan Education Advisor has worked with the Headteacher and RE lead. They use the Diocesan toolkit along with Governors to evaluate school provision. Our Foundation governors regularly visit the school as part of an annual cycle of monitoring. Most recently the Diocesan Advisor has worked with Senior Leaders to embed the idea of Windows, Mirrors and Doors into daily collective worship in which children are encouraged to learn (window), reflect (mirror) and then go away and do (door). This creates a sense of collective worship having impact on pupils spiritual and personal development journey.

As a church school we undergo the SIAMS church school inspection in addition to an OFSTED inspections of the school.

## **Collective worship: what does it look like in our school?**

Collective worship can be like a breathing space in the school day. For everyone who participates, the time feels different. It's when people in the school get together; the pace is slowed down; there's time to think about what's important in everyone's lives and in the life of the school. There's often laughter and celebration, sometimes sadness and tears; there are big questions to be asked and puzzling, perplexing and difficult situations to be explored about our lives and our world. This is a sanctuary in the hurly burly of school life and it is precious.

At All Saints' we engage in a daily act of worship, this is sometimes held in a morning session or at different times of the day in order to allow aspects such as awe and wonder to be included in our time of daily worship.

We congregate as a whole school at least twice a week, and then in age appropriate groupings, also twice a week, *with the other classes engaging in a class assembly session that day. Pupils are encouraged to take an active role in leading elements or all of the key stage assemblies.*

We will always engage in prayer and / or reflection, and will use music and song to enrich collective worship time.

As previously mentioned we use the concept of 'windows, mirrors and doors' to support collective worship.

Often when delivering a Collective Worship we will gather together using a greeting such as 'Peace be with you', inviting the response 'And also with you'. We will set the tone for Collective Worship as we gather through quiet music. Worship will incorporate a time of learning through stories, video clips and awe and wonder and this will invite a response in which we will first reflect on what we have learnt (often through prayer) and then provoke the challenge to use what we have learnt in our daily lives.

### **Windows (Learn) - could include:**

- Stories which raise questions about meaning and purpose in life
- Ideas about God and the way people of faith relate to God
- Using the Bible and its teachings and other religious texts
- Exploring Christian values
- Learning about the lives of others that inspire us.
- Learning about moments from the past which make us curious.
- Watching visual texts that motivate, inspire or make us spiritually curious.

**Mirrors (Reflect) - as an opportunity to reflect this could include:**

- Having quiet reflection time.
- Listening to music.
- Saying a prayer.
- Looking at a candle.

**Doors (Respond) - could include:**

- Taking the exploration of Christian values and putting them in action.
- Celebrate seeing these values in action.
- Children to lead their own collective worship inspired by what they have learnt.

**Inclusion**

Worship is planned and led so that all children have equal opportunity to take part and to benefit from the experience, regardless of gender, ethnicity, disability or special educational needs, (unless parents have exercised their right of withdrawal). This may include more bespoke acts of collective worship for pupils with SEND that may find engagement difficult, which falls in line with our Inclusion strategy.

Collective worship should recognise that the school community is made up of a collection of people from a variety of different backgrounds. In some parts of the Diocese of Chelmsford the cultural and religious mix is more varied than others, reflecting the diversity of society as a whole, but in all schools there is likely to be a range of people, of faith and of no faith, who are served by the school.

When collective worship is inclusive, it is sensitive to the range of people served by the school. It should seek to spiritually nurture and to be a quality experience for all participants. Those privileged to lead worship should always invite, but never seek to compel, participation; those participating will be at different stages of spiritual development and should feel free to respond and participate in ways appropriate to them.

We continue to strive for inclusivity in Church school collective worship by:

- Building positive relationships with families and local faith communities.
- Encouraging all children and all members of staff to be present for collective worship.
- Being clear when meeting new parents about what happens in worship and the ways this reflects the foundation of the school.

- Reassuring children and their families that their presence in collective worship is valued and that they will not be required to say or do anything that challenges their integrity.
- Encouraging children in finding ways to use prayer times for their own devotions or reflections.
- Giving opportunities for silent reflection to enable all pupils to make a personal response.
- Raising awareness of shared values and celebrating achievements which cross cultural and religious boundaries.
- Respecting the integrity of different faith and life stances.

## Summary

- It should aim to be **inclusive**: good collective worship engages everyone present in his/her own way.
- It should aim to be **curricular**: good collective worship shows appropriate links with classroom activities, the curriculum and school life.
- It should aim to be **educational**: good collective worship develops children's ideas about God, about themselves and the world around them.
- It should aim to be **reflective**: to offer breathing space, to be still, to wonder, to be uplifted; to nurture an awareness of God.
- It should aim to be **central to school life**.

**The impact of this Collective Worship Policy is further evidenced by the following statements:**

***Collective worship is central to school life and is a key moment when the pupils feel they 'all come together.' Pupils' musical talents help create a warm, inviting and inclusive atmosphere. Collective worship is often pupilled, and their involvement has significantly developed since the previous denominational inspection***

***Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report - January 2020***

***'Pupils love attending school. The school is a happy and safe place for pupils to make friends and be themselves. Pupils respect how some people are different from them.'***

***OFSTED July 2022***