



All Saints' Church of England Primary School

Collective Worship Policy

Proverbs 22:6 Start children off the way they should go.

Here at All Saints', we believe that starting children off the way they should go starts here. In our **school community**, we are proud of our All Saints' family feel. **The** central element of being a family, the true meaning of *koinonia*, is interdependence and at All Saints', every one of us is needed and valued and each person is important to the whole.

Ephesians 4:32 Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

At All Saints' we look for *compassion* within ourselves so we care for others and help them. For **ourselves**, we try to be **honest** about our mistakes so we can change and improve. We accept that sometimes mistakes can be made and that these mistakes need to be forgiven. Forgiveness was at the heart of everything Jesus did and is at the heart of the Lord's Prayer, which we say daily.

1 John 4:19-21 We love because he loved us first.

We understand the love of God is boundless. The love within our school is one of family and friendship. We believe friendship enables each child to grow and ensures that the unique individuality of each person is recognised, allowing them to flourish. In our **Worship**, we thank God for his *love*; **he** is the One who created love. It is because of His love that we are able to love each other.

Luke 1:37 For with God, nothing shall be impossible

Together we **grow stronger**, believing that with God nothing is impossible. This extends across all we do; academically, spiritually and emotionally. By the end of their journey, we want our children to be respectful, resilient role-models, having a self-belief in themselves and abilities, ready to go from strength to strength and be truly ready for the next step in their learning journey

Our All Saints' family aims to nurture all children following Jesus' teaching and through the teaching and celebration of our Christian Values, which complements the Right Respecting School's articles. We aim to inspire children and help them become positive members of the wider community, now and in the future.

- All Saints' is a Church of England Primary School within the London Borough of Merton and the Southwark Diocese. It is closely linked with All Saints' Church which lies at the centre of our split-site school.
- We aim to enable children to develop spiritual understanding, to begin to comprehend what it means to be a person of faith, and to accept and value those whose commitment, values and ways of life are different from their own.

Rationale

We warmly welcome all children from the community into our All Saints' Family, where we provide a nurturing environment based on our shared Christian Values. We understand worship to be a special act or occasion whose purpose is to show reverence to God. Collective worship involves members of the school coming together and participating in an assembly. We expect everyone to take an active part in the assembly.

Collective Worship is central to the life and purpose of our school, in accordance with our Anglican Foundation. As a Christian community, we promote a growing appreciation of the Christian way of life and of religious belief. Children are helped to develop personal and moral values, to show respect for other people and their way of life and an awareness and appreciation of the wonderful world we have been given to live in and care for. It is an opportunity to celebrate and support all aspects of school life, and life in the wider community and world, it offers a regular opportunity for stillness and reflection.

We recognise that in our school we have children from a variety of faith traditions, including those who have no faith background at all. Great care and sensitivity is taken to ensure that all our children feel valued and special.

In the line with the Church of England's *Valuing All God's Children* document we "have at [our] heart a belief that all children are loved by God, are individually unique and that the school has a mission to help each pupil to fulfil their potential in all aspects of their personhood: physically, academically, socially, morally and spiritually. Our aim is that all may flourish and have an abundant life." Collective Worship is a large part of this.

Aims

It aims to give pupils and school staff alike the opportunity to:

- Express praise and thanksgiving to God
- Foster respect and deepen spiritual awareness
- Reflect on the character of God and on the teachings of Christ
- Consider spiritual and moral issues

- Affirm Christian values and attitudes
- To celebrate diversity within the school's community
- Share each other's joys and challenges
- Celebrate special times in the Christian calendar
- Foster an appreciation of the created world and an awareness of our responsibility for it
- To promote a common ethos with shared values to reinforced positive attitudes
- To explore their own beliefs
- To respect individuality and celebrate diversity;
- To provide an opportunity for personal and shared reflection.
- To celebrate and give thanks for achievements within the school, the local and international
- Community and occasions of significance including festivals
- To develop in children a sense of community spirit

The Worship is central to our school day here at All Saints'. It is a special time where we can listen, think, participate and enjoy being one of God's children.

When asked, our children said Collective Worship is a time to:

- *Reflect, be calm and learn from Jesus.*
- *Come together and listen.*
- *To learn from the Bible.*
- *To gather and celebrate love and achievements.*
- *Worship God through prayer and singing.*
- *Learn about rules and the right way to behave.*
- *Celebrate that we are here and that Jesus sacrificed himself for us.*
- *Develop a closer relationship with God.*
- *Reflect and be peaceful even if you aren't a Christian.*

Legal Requirements

The 1988 Education Reform Act states that collective worship must be on a daily basis for all registered pupils. The religious foundation of All Saints' C of E Primary is Church of England and the daily Act of Collective Worship is delivered in accordance with the principles and practice of the Church of England.

In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act, which states that collective worship should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character', we base our assemblies on the teachings of Christ and traditions of the Christian Church. However, we conduct our assemblies in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs of all members of the school.

Right of withdrawal

We expect all children to attend assembly. However, any parent has the right to withdraw their child from the Daily Act of Worship. A parent wishing to do this will need to make a written request to the Headteacher and the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during the period concerned. Parents do not have to explain or give reasons for this.

This complies with the 1988 Education Reform Act. The Headteacher keeps a record of all children who withdraw from Collective Worship.

Management of Collective Worship

The responsibility of Collective Worship is shared. It is largely coordinated by the Collective Worship Team (RE lead, AHT, DHT & HT), who set the themes and timetable. The school works with local Church Clusters groups to develop and flesh out themes alongside clergy members. Teachers are expected to prepare and deliver a class assembly to parents once per year. The theme may be linked to any area of the curriculum, but there is always a time for reflection and prayer within it.

Collective Worship Timetable

Collective Worship is held at the end of every day, as one child states, *"It helps us focus on God and finish the day peacefully"*. All staff and children from Year 1-6 are expected to attend every day. Children in EYFS increase their attendance over the course of the year.

At least once per term, Collective Worship is held at the All Saints' Church which is equidistant to both of the school sites.

Monday Head Teacher Assembly focusing the teachings of the Bible and Head Teacher's Award

Tuesday The Deputy Head leads assemblies based around school based issues. This term this has included introducing the All Saints' Emojis and the meaning of the Lord's Prayer.

Wednesday The RE Leader delivers our Christian Value Assembly based on that month's chosen value and relating it to stories from the Bible.

Thursday The PSHE (Personal, Social, Health and Economic education) leaders deliver a Rights Respecting Assembly reinforcing the link between the article of the month and our Christian Value.

Friday The Key Stage/ Campus Leaders lead a Celebration Assembly, sharing good work produced that week and praising any children that have been demonstrating our Christian Values.

We conduct assemblies in a dignified and respectful way, encouraging a sense of reverence. We tell children that collective worship time is a period of calm reflection. We regard it as a special time and expect children to behave in an appropriate way. We ask them to be quiet and thoughtful and to listen carefully to the teachings and participate fully in prayer and hymns. We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music and sometimes candles or other objects that act as a focal point for the attention of the children.

There may be times whereby technology is used to deliver assembly themes such as Google Classroom or Zoom. This supports varying circumstances and allows consistency in the delivery.

Themes

We take the themes of our assemblies from the traditions of the Christian faith and we often reflect the festivals and events of the non-Christian calendar.

The themes also reflect our chosen Christian Value and ties in with a monthly selected Value and Right Respecting School Article.

Themes for assemblies are planned by the Collective Worship team, in discussion with the Faith Group Team, who meet to plan once each half term. Monday's Head Teacher Assembly focus reflects the planning through the Church Schools Cluster and provides opportunity for children to be nominated for the Head Teacher's Award. Other assemblies focus on themes related to the school (All Saints' Emojis,) the community (Harvest) or wider world issues (Send a cow.)

We encourage the children to participate in assemblies by show casing their work in Celebration Assemblies (Friday) and praising any children in each class that have been demonstrating our Christian Value that week. Assemblies offer an opportunity to acknowledge and reward children for their achievements both in and out of school. They play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school, which is that all children are valued and all achievements are recognised.

We welcome the input of visitors to our Collective Worship e.g. local clergy and church members. Children are encouraged to take an active part in assemblies and are often called up to act out Bible stories or share prayers.

In the spirit of community, parents are invited to take part in regular acts of worship, joining us at All Saints' Church for Christmas and Easter services, including Nativity, Epiphany etc. At the end of the year, parents join us for our end of year Celebration Assembly they also have the opportunity to attend their child's class assembly. A member of the Governing Body is represented at each church service.

Recording and Evaluation

Acts of Worship are evaluated by governors and the Collective Worship Team and children's responses are collected via pupil voice and the input of the Class Ambassadors.

The Collective Worship Team and or Governors carries out Pupil Voice interviews and record children's reflections on the worship and their potential actions as a result of their understanding of the topic. The team then collates all these responses and feeds back to the Faith Group Team to make discuss and make improvements upon as detailed in the planner.