All Saints’ C of E Primary School



**Collective Worship Policy**

*Inclusive, Invitational, Inspiring*

**‘Since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus.’ Hebrews12.1-2**

**School’s Vision Statement**

At All Saints’ Church of England School we have a Christian environment we are inclusive and we respect each other and people from other faiths and races. Together we have faith in Jesus and help each other to learn and achieve our potential in a safe, loving and caring family.

**Collective Worship at All Saints’ C of E School**

**20**For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them. Matthew 18:20

**Introduction**

‘Collective worship is central to the life of a church school. It is part of the outworking of the school’s Christian vision and is a time for the whole school community to gather, pause and reflect on their own spirituality, values and place in the world.’

*Carlisle Diocese Collective Worship Guidance for Schools, Clergy and Governors*

‘Offering this in the context of authentic Christian worship is not ‘religious indoctrination’ but a simple chance for children of all faiths and none to develop spirituality and gain perspective in an otherwise crowded day’

*Nigel Genders Chief Education Officer for the Church of England*

**Aim**

We aim to make every act of Collective Worship meaningful, engaging and relevant to those present, whether they choose to worship or not. As a Church of England school, our worship is of a distinctly Christian nature and is focussed around our schools’ Christian values;

* Thankfulness
* Trust
* Perseverance
* Hope
* Truthfulness
* Peace
* Justice
* Responsibility
* Forgiveness
* Friendship

**Our School acts of worship aim to:**

In relation to the issues of withdrawal, it is helpful for parents to be aware of the aims and purpose of Collective Worship, as defined by the Education Reform Act 1988:

* To provide an opportunity for the children to worship God
* To enable children to consider spiritual and moral issues
* To enable children to explore their own beliefs
* To encourage participation and response
* To develop in children a sense of community spirit
* To promote a common ethos with shared values and reinforce positive attitudes. Within our provision of Christian Worship, we try to meet these aims for all children.

**Organisation**

An act of Collective Worship takes place daily1 and usually lasts 20 minutes.

All teaching staff lead a collective worship each week on a rota. Staff are supported by the Year 5 & 6 Worship Leader. Each teacher follows our Christian Value Long term worship planning over a two-year cycle, with worship taking place every day;

* Mon, Wed in class.
* Tuesday and Thursday; Key Stage 2 meets from 10:10-10.30am.

Reception and Key Stage One from 10.30-10.50.

* Friday Whole school celebration collective worship lead by SLT.

All classes take an active part in leading at least 1 whole school service per year linking to their focus Christian value.

The school celebrates events in church including All Saints Day. Harvest and Easter are marked with special whole school collective worships. During Harvest celebrations we work closely with community group ‘North Lakes Food Bank’.

Year 6 lead their own leavers service and also attend the Diocesan Leavers’ service at Carlisle Cathedral.

On occasions the whole school comes together for community occasions involving family and members of the community.

Visitors play an important role in the life of our school and regularly contribute to acts of worship. We invite members of charitable organisations who offer their expertise to the school, for example NISCU & foodbank, to lead us in worship, as well as any local clergy and church leaders who come in each week.

**Content**

We follow a values-based half termly plan for Collective Worship, focussing on each of our school values each term. Other significant events and religious festivals are also planned in over the year.

Content for individual sessions is provided for the staff, we also enable the

Planning always includes:

* an explanation of how the current value helps us to live out our vision- what this value means to some Christians
* links to the Church year – where appropriate
* suggested relevant Bible stories and prayers
* reference to relevant world faiths/festivals/celebrations occurring
* relevant links with PSHE, SMSC and British Values or any other part of the school curriculum
* suggestions for hymns and songs of worship.

**Prayer Days and Prayer Spaces**

The school has developed prayer spaces both outside and in the school building and the theme for each area is changed by staff on a half termly basis and in response to community and national situations or events. Children can access the areas as and when. All Saints Church also support the school with a working prayer group who come into school to support focussed prayer days.

**Inclusion**

In line with the Equalities Act 2010, we are committed to equality of opportunity regardless of race, gender, cultural background, ability, religion, physical or sensory disability or any other protected characteristic. We therefore aim to make Collective Worship accessible to all and accommodate ourselves to individual needs as appropriate e.g. taking account of different learning styles and using multi-sensory approaches.

Collective worship will be presented in a variety of styles and to include music, story, drama, and singing, reflection and reverence in prayer time but will include the following stages:

* Gathering
* Engaging
* Responding
* Sending

**Evaluation of Collective Worship**

The effectiveness and impact of Collective Worship is monitored termly. Monitoring involves the whole school community. It is led by governors who regularly join us for acts of Collective Worship. RE lead also gathers pupil voice.

The views of pupils are fed back to the Headteacher and their views inform future planning.

**Right of Withdrawal**

Given the inclusive and invitational nature of our acts of Collective Worship outlined above, we hope that every parent or carer would wish their child to take part in this special part of the school day. However, parents do have the legal right to withdraw their children from Collective Worship. There is no requirement to explain or give reasons for a request of withdrawal. However, if this is something you are considering for your child, you are warmly encouraged to contact the Headteacher, who will be happy to answer any questions you may have. We will, of course, supervise any pupil withdrawn from Collective Worship and keep him or her safe. However, please be aware that we are unable to provide alternative teaching.

**Review of this Policy**

This policy will be reviewed three years.

**References**

1 [Education Reform Act 1988, section 7(1); DfE Circular 1/94 (1994)](https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1988/40/section/7/enacted#:~:text=7Special%20provisions%20as%20to,of%20a%20broadly%20Christian%20character.).

2 [Collective Worship in Church of England Schools Guidance Document: Inclusive Invitational Inspiring](https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2021-05/Collective%20Worship%20Guidance%2018052021.pdf).

3. [Collective Worship | The Church of England](https://www.churchofengland.org/about/education-and-schools/church-schools-and-academies/collective-worship)

4.[Collective Worship Planning - Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich (cofesuffolk.org)](https://www.cofesuffolk.org/schools/resources-and-information/collective-worship/collective-worship-planning/)

For approval by the Governing Body on:

Chair of Governors signature:

Monitoring by: Subject Leader & Head Teacher

Review Date: Every 3 years (next review September 2027)

All Saints’ C of E School Prayers

**Morning Prayer Everyone;**

**All Saints’ C of E School prayer**

Heavenly Father,

Help us to fix our eyes on Jesus.

Let us throw off everything that is holding us back.

So that we can run with perseverance the race marked out for us today.

Amen

**Lunchtime Grace;**

**Nursery & Key Stage One**

Thank you for the world so sweet,

Thank you for the food we eat.

Thank you for the birds that sing,

Thank you God for everything

Amen

**Key Stage Two**

For the food we are about to receive,

may the Lord make us truly thankful.

Amen

**End of the Day Prayer Everyone;**

Lord, keep us safe this night,

secure from all our fears.

While angels guard us while we sleep,

‘till morning light appears.

Amen