



# All Saints' Church of England Primary School



## Collective Worship Policy

Date approved by FGB	March 2024
Date for review	March 2027
Signed by COG	



School vision	<p>In our distinctively Christian school, our children and staff feel safe and supported. We encourage <b>everyone</b> to become caring, resilient, and reflective learners to prepare for an ever-changing world.</p> <p>Never give up on people. Never stop trusting. Never lose hope and never quit. - Inspired by 1 Corinthians 13:7</p>
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## Introduction

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Our Collective Worship Policy strengthens and supports the Christian identity of our school, reaffirms our vision to never give up on people. Never stop trusting. Never lose hope and never quit and the associated values we derive from it to persevere, forgive, and respect. It celebrates the central role that each child has to play in their community. Our worship reflects the variety of traditions found in the Church of England, and will recognise and follow the Christian liturgical year.

The daily Christian act of worship is the heartbeat of our school, central to our ethos and is supported by all staff and governors. It makes an important contribution to the overall spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of the whole school community.

At All Saints' Collective Worship aims to be inspirational, invitational and inclusive.

As Collective Worship is so central in the life of our school, all teachers as well as pupils are normally present and participate. Classroom staff are encouraged to attend at least one Collective Worship session a week and we regularly welcome governors and other visitors to attend.

## Legal Requirements and the right of withdrawal

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There must be a daily act of collective worship in all maintained schools for all pupils. This can take place at anytime 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. In other words, the law on collective worship that applies in a community school, "that it should be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character", is not relevant. Worship in All Saints' should be distinctly Christian and reflect Anglican traditions.

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

## The right of withdrawal

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In All Saints' there are children whose families are members of another faith, or who hold a non-religious world view. 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 they serve. As collective worship occupies such a central place in the life of the Church school, this should be made clear on 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.

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. It may be helpful to establish:

- The elements of worship in which the parent would object to the child taking part.
- The other aspects of school life that are impacted by the Christian foundation of the school such as prayer and reflective areas.
- The practical implications of withdrawal
- Whether the parent will require any advanced notice of such worship, and if so, how much.

Where parents have withdrawn their children from collective worship and request religious worship according to their particular faith or denomination, the governors and head teacher will seek to respond positively to such requests providing:

- Such arrangements can be made at no additional cost to the school.
- That the alternative provision would be consistent with the overall purposes of the school curriculum as set out in the Education Acts

If the Parent asks that a pupil should be wholly or partly excused from attending any religious worship at the school, then the school must comply. Parents are kindly asked to formalise this request in writing.

## The intention of our Collective Worship

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It is our intention to offer Collective Worship that meets the requirements of the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Framework.

Collective Worship in All Saints' aims to:

- Have a pivotal place in the life of the school.
- Support pupils and adults in their spiritual growth
- Be the central vehicle by which the school's vision is unpacked and explored so that the whole school community is challenged and engaged with the teachings of Jesus and the Bible.
- Provide 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.
- Support pupils in the development of their understanding of the Trinitarian nature of God in Christian belief
- Provide a variety of different opportunities for reflection, understanding of diverse liturgical 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 so that they are offered a pattern of meanings and a framework into which they can begin to integrate experience.
- Explore 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 home time.
- Offer opportunities to all children and staff to develop their skills in planning, leading and evaluating the impact of school worship.
- Pupils will be at the centre of this process taking on increasingly independent roles in planning and leading worship.



- Ensure that materials and themes for worship are carefully selected to make sure pupils understand the work of Christians and the church locally, nationally and globally and how this reflects the teachings of the Bible and the example of Jesus.
- Share in each other's joys and challenges.
- Explore the big questions and respond to national events.
- Encourage local church community partnerships to support the school effectively in developing its provision for Collective Worship.

## The Anglican Christian Tradition

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As part of our Collective Worship Practice we incorporate the following elements fundamental to our Church of England identity:

- Using Prayer and reflection
- Exploring the Christian understanding of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit
- Using the Bible for inspiration, stories and guidance
- Observing the cycle of the Church's Year – Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, Pentecost and Saints Days amongst ordinary days
- Learning and saying prayers from a number of sources, in particular the Lord's Prayer and the blessings in common use
- Singing a wide variety of hymns and songs from traditional to modern
- Using Christian symbols in worship and reflecting on their meaning

## Our Collective Worship Pattern and Practice

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Worship is held at 8:55am every day and lasts twenty minutes. Every week we hold three whole school acts of worship, emphasising the unity of the school, one key stage based act of worship and one class based worship led by class teachers and tailored more to the specific needs of different age groups. Our local Church of England vicar leads one of the weekly acts of worship. Other Collective worships are led by the leadership team. Children are also encouraged to contribute with readings or prayers. Collective Worship is planned by the Collective Worship leader in conjunction with staff and pupils.

Worship is held in the hall, where there is a wooden cross as a focal point and candles are lit to represent the Trinity at the start of each worship. We have a cloth on the worship table in liturgical colours, mirroring the church year. Music is played as children enter and leave the hall to encourage an atmosphere of reflection. The Lord's Prayer is recited regularly, along with our school prayer. A wide range of approaches are used in worship, including drama, discussion, reflection, reading, singing and prayer.

Our worship consists of 4 stages:

- At our 'Gathering', we welcome the school community with a liturgical greeting and by lighting a candle.
- At our 'Engaging' we have the leader's main input into the act of Worship. We engage the pupils by sharing a core message. This may be through a Bible reading and pupil activity.
- This is followed with a 'Responding' opportunity. These are opportunities for pupils and staff to reflect upon this message and the impact that it has on their lives today. This may be through prayer, quiet reflection, activity, song or discussion.
- We conclude our Collective Worship by 'Sending' out. We close our worship through one or more of the following elements – a final message, Bible verse, a challenge, song, prayer, music, liturgy and

blowing out of the candle. The messages in our Collective Worship may be followed up on in classes or in further acts of Collective Worship.

The children also attend services in Church each year, including a carol service, Harvest Festival and an Easter service.

## Staff development and training

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We ensure that all staff, including support staff, receive appropriate training and opportunities for professional development, both as individuals and as groups or teams.

## Visitor Leaders to Collective Worship

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We welcome visitors to lead and participate in our Collective Worship. Visiting Collective Worship Leaders are asked to read and comply with our school visitor and safeguarding policies. The welcoming member of staff will discuss with the visitor, prior to the visitor leading Collective Worship, the content, expectations and practices of Collective Worship. The purpose is to ascertain its suitability for the school community. Visitors are never left alone with children as the supervision of pupils remains the responsibility of school staff.

## Pupil Led Worship

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Since we believe worship to be the activity of the whole school community, we actively promote appropriate pupil leadership as well as full participation. We have a Pupil Collective Worship Council. This group is supported by the Headteacher and the Collective Worship lead.

Pupils regularly plan and lead Collective Worship on a voluntary basis. They work with the Collective Worship Leader to design and develop Collective Worship opportunities. They meet each half term and also regularly evaluate Collective Worship.

## Monitoring

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Our Collective Worship practice is reviewed each half term through discussions with pupils and staff. Observations and reflections form part of this review. These evaluations are used by the Collective Worship Lead and feed into the planning and delivery of future worship.

Collective Worship is monitored by the Headteacher, Collective Worship leader and Governors.