

All Saints CE Academy



# Collective Worship Policy

Agreed - Spring 2020  
To be reviewed - annually

## Policy Statement

At All Saints CE Academy, Denstone, the daily act of collective worship is viewed as an integral and important part of school life.

Through this, and in the general ethos of the school we seek to promote our academies motto:

*'Learning together as disciples of Jesus'*

It is a time where we come together to share a love of God and celebrate our achievements (and sometimes failures) together. The worship of the school is based on promoting the Christian values, which permeate the ethos of the school. As such, the contributions of staff, pupils, church clergy and other visitors are valued highly.

### Christian Values

We identify the values of Love, respect and kindness. These values are embodied in the New Commandment that Jesus gave us:

*John 13:34-35*

*"...love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another, then everyone will know that you are my disciples".*

We also actively seek to encourage the attitudes of awe, wonder and reflection.

We blend Christian teaching and Values Education in order to create opportunities for children to develop physically, emotionally, personally, socially, mentally and intelligently so that their self-esteem and well-being is sound and supported by ever growing emotional intelligence; leading to an understanding of their rights and responsibilities as young citizens. The systematic introduction of a common values vocabulary allows children to access moral and ethical thought.

### Legal Requirements

We acknowledge the legal requirement stated in the 1988 Education Reform Act 6 (1) and 9 (3), which states the need for each child to attend a daily act of worship either as a whole school, class or group. Parents have the legal right, following discussion with the head teacher, to withdraw their children from the act of worship either partially or wholly. Teachers also have the right to withdraw from leading and taking part in worship.

### Organisation

We aim to provide a variety of worship experiences for the children. Our current schedule is as follows:

- Monday      Whole school worship led by Mrs Manby.
- Tuesday     Whole school worship led by Mrs Wilson or Rev. Liz.
- Wednesday   Whole school worship led by Mrs Tomlinson or Christian youth worker.
- Thursday     Whole school worship led by Miss Langford.
- Friday       Celebration Worship led by Miss Shanahan

Each half term, Collective Worship is led by either a class or the Worship Team. Once every term, a group of children meet with Mrs Manby to discuss worship, in particular, the impact of collective worship on the children. In addition to this, visiting groups and individuals are welcomed into the school to lead worship.

### Planning, Content and Detail

The themes for our collective worship are taken from the Church calendar, the Fundamental British Values, SMSC topics and rituals and festivals. The worship begins with the children entering the hall accompanied by a piece of music for the week. The title of this piece of music is shared with the children and could come from a variety of cultures. The candles on the altar table are lit and the worship begins with the adult selecting a pupil to be the worship leader and they then begin the worship by asking the children if they would like to get into position to pray.

*Dear Father God,  
Throughout this school day,  
Help us to learn and help us to play.  
To concentrate on all we do,  
To understand and remember too.  
Amen.*

The worship then proceeds, which includes a song or hymn. A reflection time is given towards the end. The worship leader chooses a prayer. The candles are then blown out and the children say '*we are the light of the world*'. We then share the Grace with one another and the worship leader offers the Peace to everyone. The children then lead out as the music is played.

Celebration worship on Friday celebrates the children's achievements both in and outside school. Normally, teachers choose one or two members of their class to receive a special mention and certificate. We have a values certificate, which is awarded to any member of the school community who has shone in showing one, or several, of our school values. Any member of the school community can nominate someone to receive this certificate.

At Harvest, Mother's Day, Easter and Christmas we hold special services at the local Church. We regularly visit the church when covering certain topics in RE lessons and also for holding some daily acts of worship. The Year Three and Four children learn about the Communion Service. Reverend Liz comes into school to explain what happens in church, the children then visit church each term to take part in the service. Children, along with their parent's permission can then choose to learn about Communion before Confirmation.

### Prayer and Reflection

Collective worship always includes a time of prayer and reflection. A range of prayers are used including the Lord's Prayer, the school prayer, prayers written by the children and others. They are introduced by the worship leader who asks the children to prepare themselves for prayer. The school is actively developing the children's confidence in reciting simple liturgy.

Every classroom has a Reflective Area, where there is a prayer box and children can use these spaces if they need a moment to reflect during the school day or to write a prayer.

In the entrance to school there is a Prayer Tree. This is used widely throughout the year. Children have used it to thank God, to ask for support, to think about those who have lost their lives.

### Other Faiths

At All Saints our worship reflects our Christian beliefs and values and we are also committed to respecting each other's faith stance and culture, showing tolerance and understanding regardless of pupils' beliefs. Some acts of worship may portray other cultures and beliefs as they reflect the RE studied as part of the curriculum requirements.

### Record Keeping, Evaluation and Monitoring

A worship book is kept, recording details of each act of worship. Evaluations will also be recorded here. This book is looked at by the children and Mrs Manby when they meet each half term.

### Visits and visitors

As part of the curriculum, All Saints ensures that appropriate visits are made available for the children in order for them to have first-hand experiences and gain a greater understanding of various places of worship. Visitors to the school are welcomed and enabled to share their experiences and knowledge - their role is to educate, not to evangelise. All Saints Church is our most valuable and frequently used resource, with the whole school attending and contributing towards annual Harvest, Christmas, Easter and Mother's Day services. We also take the children to the Islamic in Mosque in Derby and the Synagogue in Manchester.

### Equal Opportunities and special needs issues

All pupils, regardless of academic ability, age, gender and ethnic origin will have access to a wide range of appropriate activities to support their understanding of Worship R.E. At each Key Stage, the teacher will draw from other religions as appropriate to acknowledge and celebrate the religious beliefs of the children within the class.

Rebecca Walker and Anna Bennett

Executive Headteacher and  
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