

All Saints CE Academy



# Collective Worship Policy

Agreed - Spring 2022  
To be reviewed - Spring 2023

## Policy Statement

At All Saints CE Academy, 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 Executive Headteacher, 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 Senior Teacher.
- Tuesday     Whole school worship led by a member of the clergy from the local Anglican church. Rev. Liz or Rev. Gary.
- Wednesday  Whole school worship led by KS1 teacher.
- Thursday    Whole school worship led by Senior Teacher.
- Friday       Celebration Worship

At 10.25 each day apart from Friday when a Celebration Worship is held at 9.00 am

Once every term, a group of children meet with a member of the Local Academy Council 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 music is chosen by a different member of staff each week. The trinity candles on the altar table are lit which symbolizes the beginning of the worship begins, children indicate what the candles represent by joining and saying 'God the Father, son and Holy Spirit which represents the Holy Trinity'.

The worship then proceeds, which includes a story, teaching of an aspect of another faith, song or hymn and a reflection time is given towards the end. The worship leader may choose a prayer or select a few prayers from the boxes in each classroom or the one on the worship table. 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.

The celebration worship on Friday celebrates the children's achievements both in and outside school. Normally, teachers choose two members of their class to receive a special mention and certificate. One member of the school community each week is recognised for truly demonstrating one or more of our Core Values and this certificate is awarded at this time.

At Harvest, Mother's Day, Easter and Christmas we hold special services at the local Anglican Church. We regularly visit the church when covering certain topics in RE lessons and also for holding some daily acts of worship.

## 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**. A cross is displayed above the worship table and on the table there are wooden praying hands and two further crosses.

As the children are lining up for lunch a prayer of thanks is said by the class. Prayers are also said at the end of the school day. These prayers have been written by the children. 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. The children in the Worship Team develop these areas for their classmates to use.

The school has a Prayer Tree in the Reception area. Families contribute to the prayer tree by hanging a key on the tree. This key represents their family and a prayer is said when they hang their key. If they want to add further prayers they can do so at any time

## 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 LAC 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 on the Faith Trail every other year. This gives them opportunity to visit a Hindu Temple, Sikh Gurdwara and an Islamic Mosque.

## Parents/Governors/Diocesan Liaison and Local Community Issues

- Children may be withdrawn from R.E. lessons at the wish of their parents. This should only be done in consultation with the Head teacher. The Head teacher will ensure that suitable provision is made for such pupils.
- We have a very supportive Local Academy Council who like to be involved in school life where possible. We have visits from each member of the LAC, once a year where they may complete a pupil voice session or evaluate a worship alongside the pupils. A calendar of visits is created at the start of the academic year. Resources to

support the LAC members in their visits can be found on the Saints Academies Governor Hub page.

### 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 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  
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