



## Introduction

All schools should provide an act of worship for pupils every day. Arrangements for the act of collective worship in schools and all academies are made by the governors after consulting the headteacher. Collective Worship in a church school should be carried out in accordance with the school's founding Trust Deed, and in accordance with the school's Ethos Statement, which is to be found in the statutory Instrument of Government.

As before, 'The Way Ahead' has something to offer about this worship:

'In a Church school, the offer of a Christian understanding of the world and the place of humanity in it will be reflected in worship. In particular, it will be reflected in the everyday life of the school, quietly respectful of the beliefs of others and of other faiths, but confident in its own faith.' (3.28)

## Aims

- to present the Christian faith and its values, and to recognise those values in other mainstream religious traditions.
- to provide the opportunity for the reverence of an awe - inspiring God.
- to enable the school community to explore and develop spiritual understanding.
- to encourage active participation with opportunities for the expression of faith.
- to offer an atmosphere in which the important questions of life may be considered.
- to promote a common ethos and shared values.

Collective worship is central to the life of All Saints Church of England Primary School and is:

- well organised and planned;
- provides opportunities for everyone (including staff) to participate as well as just attend;
- an environment conducive to worship.

Collective worship experience should:

- take account of the ages, aptitudes and family backgrounds of pupils;
- extend the learning opportunities offered to pupils;
- reflect what goes on across the curriculum – not just RE;
- collective worship should be inclusive.

Collective worship as distinct from corporate worship. All Saints Church of England Primary School community is engaged in an activity which, no matter how valuable, is a legal obligation. It is not a faith community - people sharing one faith who have chosen to gather together for worship. The organisation and language of this collective worship should allow for different levels of response. Church School worship is invitational, not coercive. All Saints Church of England Primary School has pupils with widely differing experiences of worship, some go to Church regularly, others will have no such experiences beyond school and still others will belong to and worship in the precepts of another faith. It is our task to provide pupils with a secure context in which to experience Christian worship and reflect upon the impact of worship in their own lives and the lives of the people around them.

Collective worship includes material from faiths other than Christianity and many schools mark the major festivals of other faiths. Recognising them is part of the general religious and cultural education of pupils and helps develop understanding and valuing of members of other faiths in the school. The inclusion of such experiences does not mean the worship itself becomes Muslim or Hindu worship.

### Implementation

All Saints Church of England Primary School holds an act of collective worship every day at 1.15pm – however, this is subject to change depending on the needs of the timetables to allow parents and governors to attend, visitors to lead worship and for variations of venue and presentation.

Most acts of collective worship take place in the hall and are for the whole school. On some occasions, Foundation, Key Stages 1 and 2 meet separately for collective worship. The whole school meets in All Saints Church for worship at the end of school half terms and terms. During times when we are unable to meet together in large number we have based Collective Worship in class and connected via Microsoft Teams as a school.

The headteacher leads worship at least once a week, a member of the Governing body comes in regularly, Father Trevor leads once a week and we invite a Growing Faith Minister to lead once a week as well.

Other visitors are welcomed to lead collective worship from time to time.

Important elements that are regularly incorporated into acts of collective worship include: The use of symbols, including a Bible, a cross, and a candle which is used to signify the beginning and end of worship. Songs and hymns, often linked to the theme, as well as other music to set the atmosphere for worship. Prayers to reflect the theme of the act of worship and the Lord's Prayer are said at the end of the Collective Worship.

A story, extract or theme from the Bible will be used in most acts of worship. Sometimes stories or texts from other faiths and cultures are incorporated into collective worship.

The school uses a thematic approach for collective worship. New themes are introduced at the beginning of each week and then explored in different ways through the week. The themes are selected in accordance with the broad traditions of Anglican teaching, and will often include an exploration of Christian values such as justice and mercy, compassion, love, peace, forgiveness and service; the understanding and celebration of festivals and seasons including Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, Pentecost, Harvest and Remembrance; and the opportunity to reflect on major events and ideas from the wider world, including learning about major festivals of other faiths and how they are celebrated.

A wide range of styles of collective worship are used. Stimuli include objects, stories, poems, drama, art, humour, and music. There is often a mixture of listening, participating and responding.

Collective worship is a powerful opportunity to provide for pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. For this to be successful worship should:

- be concerned with the worship of God;
- have a sense of occasion;
- invite participation;
- provide an opportunity for participants to explore their inner feelings;
- provide opportunities for individuals and the community to share matters of importance;
- celebrate beliefs, values and ideals;
- respect the integrity of all individuals, valuing everyone as a child of God;
- promote the values of the school and explore the rationale for them;
- foster a sense of community and belonging;
- be varied in style and include different forms of expression e.g. art, music, story, dance;
- celebrate pupils' talents;
- make use of symbols and imagery. Worship should also give opportunities to explore the traditions of the Church, especially the Anglican heritage - all Anglican schools should reflect some of these essential features.

These features include:

- using the Bible as a source book;
- reflecting upon Christian symbols and their use in worship;
- observing the cycle of the Anglican year: Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter and Pentecost;
- the centrality of Prayer –
  - using collects and other formal varieties of prayer,
  - identifying a collection of prayers for regular use – including children's own prayers,
  - learning traditional responses and prayers which express the essential beliefs of Christians throughout the ages;
- providing opportunities to discover the value of meditation and silence within the context of Christian worship;
- experiencing the bond of community which encompasses gender, age, race and religious opinion, for example through the range of visitors invited to lead or attend school worship;
- sharing in a commitment to dialogue with other faiths, shown in the welcome we offer to all pupils and the celebration of shared values and beliefs.

### Right of Withdrawal

Collective worship at All Saints Church of England Primary School aims to be meaningful and relevant for all pupils and staff, for those with a faith background and for those with none. Governors acknowledge the right of parents to request that their children be excused from the daily act of collective worship, but it is hoped that parents will feel they do not need to remove their child from collective worship as this breaks the unity of the school. As a school we are committed to good communications with parents and actively encourage dialogue concerning collective worship.

At present all staff attend collective worship and we trust that this will continue.

### Coordination

At All Saints Church of England Primary School, collective worship is coordinated by the subject co-ordination for Collective Worship. Staff responsible for leading collective worship follow the themed assemblies given from the Collective Worship co-ordinator.