



*A Family, Uniquely made and loved by God.*

# All Saints Primary School Laxfield

## Collective Worship Policy

Approved by:	Governors Ethos Committee	Date: Autumn 2022
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Last reviewed on:	Autumn 2023
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Next review due by:	Autumn 2026
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## **School's Christian Vision**

We are a Good Samaritan school where all are treated equally. We are a family, bound together by a sense of belonging and support and founded upon our Christian values of love, forgiveness, friendship, perseverance, thankfulness and respect. Our vision is for a school with high quality teaching and learning which cares for all, reflects the love of God and enables all children to flourish and experience life in all its fulness. It is a vision for now and the future, rooted in the Christian faith,

## **Collective Worship Policy**

At All Saints we believe that Collective worship plays a vital role in the life of our school. It is an opportunity to promote the Christian foundation of our school, to celebrate and support all aspects of school life and to provide time for stillness and reflection in what is often a very busy, and active day for our children. Great care and sensitivity will be taken to ensure that our children feel valued and special.

Collective Worship contributes to the working out of our Ethos. and the Christian Vision of the school which was written by the whole school family, and therefore is central to the Christian Education we provide. It contributes to the celebration and exploration of the Christian values of our school: love, respect, friendship, forgiveness, thankfulness and perseverance.

## **Aims**

The main aims of Worship Time at All Saints are:

- ❖ To provide opportunities for pupils to worship God
- ❖ To introduce pupils to the distinctiveness of the Christian tradition and God as a Trinity.
- ❖ To help pupils to develop a sense of awe and wonder of the world about them and encourage their care and concern for all that is created.
- ❖ To provide time and opportunity for thanksgiving and to enjoy the unity which derives from sharing friendship, acceptance, joys, hopes and fears etc: within a caring community.
- ❖ To promote pupils' spiritual, moral, cultural and social development and allow time for pupils to explore their own beliefs.
- ❖ To promote a common sense of ethos and shared values
- ❖ To explore Christianity through a multicultural perspective, developing respect and sensitivity to the beliefs, cultures and values of people from all races and religions.
- ❖ To help our pupils understand the nature and language of worship.
- ❖ To support the broader curriculum through the use of art, music, dance, poetry, story, drama and other visual and oral means of communication

For some pupils the experience of worship will be tentative and exploratory. For those who have already developed a growing Christian commitment, worship will be the natural outcome of belief, and a place where their deepest thoughts and emotions can be expressed in communion in God.

## **Pupil withdrawal**

The right to withdraw pupils from Collective Worship is available to all parents. If a parent decides to adopt this option, they will need to make a request to the Executive Headteacher.

## **Organisation**

We use the Values for Life and Roots and Fruits schemes.

Collective worship is held daily, mostly as a whole school, but occasionally within classes to enable children to reflect and respond individually upon the theme of the half term.

All parents, carers and visitors are welcome to attend any assembly.

The assembly schedule is organised by the Head of School and includes assemblies led by Reverend Enid (All Saints Parish church) and Pastor Tim (Laxfield Baptist church) and members of school staff. Members of the pupil Ethos group also lead assemblies and all children are encouraged to participate when appropriate through acting, reading or sharing their ideas. Most Fridays there is a Whole School Celebration assembly - celebrating children's work and achievements. This is one of the opportunities that pupils can also be recognised for acts of kindness or demonstrating our school values.

Assembly is different to Collective Worship. We occasionally have an assembly led by a visitor where the focus is not on God. However we still light the candle, pray and sing.

The School Family regularly worships at All Saints Parish Church. Services include:

- ❖ Harvest Festival
- ❖ Christingle and Carols Service
- ❖ Easter

The end of year Leavers Service is held at the Baptist chapel.

Services may include pupil's own poetry, performance poems, dance, drama and music. The services are led by children from the Ethos group who work with the Head to plan the order and readings.

The school also supports Parish services, wherever possible, by

- ❖ Displays of appropriate work
- ❖ Prayers, poems or readings
- ❖ Laying a wreath on Remembrance Sunday

The school is glad to take part in community events that are linked to worship including singing at the Christmas market and over 60s Christmas lunch.

## **Creating an appropriate setting**

A calm and comfortable atmosphere is created by:

- ❖ Assembling in an orderly and quiet manner
- ❖ The use of a variety of background music
- ❖ Display focal points may be on a screen or an object on the Collective Worship table at the front of the hall.
- ❖ Display board at the front of the hall with thought provoking words/images of the current value along with pupil responses to it. ( This develops over the course of the half term).

### **The Character of Worship**

Worship is planned with the following scaffold:

- i. Call to worship (music, an object or picture on display)
- ii. Greeting (Trinity reference, prayer, signing and candle lighting)
- iii. Engaging with the Word of God– Bible reading, storytelling, performance, video etc
- iv. Responding to the Word – through song, prayer, shared or private thought.
- v. Sending out – how can we take what we have heard out to the life of our school, community and world?

The children and staff are welcomed to the worship by members of the Ethos group who also light a candle with the words 'I light this candle to represent Jesus, the light of the world.'

The acts of Collective Worship are planned to give the pupils a variety of experiences. These will include:

- ❖ Stories from the Bible, other religions and cultures. Reflection on what they teach us.
- ❖ Learning about and reflecting upon the half termly value – how can we become better Christians?
- ❖ Learning about other cultures and reflecting on how they impact upon our own lives.
- ❖ Learning about influential people and what is happening in the wider world (including the need for charity such as Children in Need)
- ❖ Discussion, speech and silence
- ❖ Poetry
- ❖ Music
- ❖ Drama
- ❖ Visiting speakers
- ❖ Use of artefacts and images
- ❖ Celebrating achievements, effort and when Christian values are shown.

### **A Worshipful Response**

The children will be given an opportunity to respond to these experiences through:

- ❖ Silent reflection
- ❖ Shared ideas
- ❖ Spoken prayer
- ❖ Singing hymns and songs

Prayers may be written by pupils or selected by them from suitable sources, or short prayers led by the person taking the Collective Worship time. The choice of prayers and songs will be appropriate and reflect the particular theme of worship.

The Lord's Prayer will be taught and explained. Pupils are taught to sing the Lord's Prayer.

The meaning of Amen is explained.

Other opportunities to respond include writing responses to put onto the display board. Every half term, the children create a piece of work or drama in response to the value which is then recorded in their Collective Worship Values book.

### **Christianity as a world faith & opportunities to explore other faiths/visits**

At All Saints we understand that Christianity is an inclusive and welcoming world faith which mirrors the attitude of Christ in the Gospels. School family members of faith and no faith are given opportunities to voice and share their own beliefs. Within worship we explore Christianity as a world faith and also make appropriate links and opportunities with other world faiths. Through their Christian character, our acts of collective worship will:

- recognise and celebrate the diversity of the cultures, lifestyles and faiths which exist in our school and local community;
- have an atmosphere in which everyone feels valued and safe
- be appropriate for every student to attend
- focus on issues and experiences which are relevant to the pupils
- foster active roles of pupils, parents and members of the local community – in preparation, participation and leadership.
- Support all members of our school family in their faith journey.

### **Resources**

There are a variety of specific artefacts to aid Worship times. These include a range of crosses, candles and other Christian symbols, posters, bibles, story books, prayer books and music. All hymn music and lyrics are accessible through the ICT equipment installed in the school hall as are relevant websites.

Resources include:

- Roots and Fruits assembly plans, pictures and stickers
- Values for Life folder and CD Rom
- The Lion Storyteller Bible by Bob Hartman
- The Bible for Children by Murray Watts

Songs are from a range of sources including CDs and Sing Up

### **Useful Websites**

<http://www.christianvalues4schools.co.uk/>

<http://www.barnabasinschools.org.uk/>

<http://www.assemblies.org.uk/pri/current/>