St. Luke's Church of England VC Primary School Collective Worship Policy

This policy is intended to be read by teachers, Learning Support assistants, parents, governors, inspectors, support staff and staff from other schools with which we may have links.

Date approved: Summer 2024
Date of review: Summer 2025

Aims

At St. Luke's School, 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 vision statement to:

"Teach children how they should live, and they will remember it all their life." Proverbs 22:6

It is a time where we come together to learn about God, give thanks, celebrate our achievements and sometimes reflect on our shortcomings. The worship of the school is based on promoting the Christian values which underpin our learning characteristics which permeate the ethos of the school. As such, the contributions of staff, pupils, church clergy and other visitors are valued highly.

Christian Values
The Christian values embraced by the school are Faith, Hope, Love, Forgiveness, Compassion Thankfulness and Responsibility.

These values are embodied in the Greatest Commandment that Jesus gave us:

Mark 12:30-31 (NIV)

'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these.

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

We use Christian teaching 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 to withdraw their children from the act of worship either partially or wholly. Any parents wishing to do so should contact the Head teacher. 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 collective worship. This worship is led by the Headteacher, Deputy Head or by a member of the senior leadership team (SLT). It is based on our Learning Characteristic focus for that half term and often includes a bible story demonstrating this learning characteristic.
Tuesday	Hymn and singing practice, with prayer/reflection time, led by teachers EYFS/KS1, Lower KS2 and Upper KS2 have separate sessions. The songs/hymns link to the learning characteristic for that half term. We have recently started using the resources Pop UK as recommended by our Diocese advisor.
Wednesday	Separate collective worship for EYFS/KS1 and KS2 so that Christian teachings can be closer pitched to age and ability of the pupils. EYFS and KS1 have a more simplistic and basic introduction to the theme whilst KS2 are able to delve deeper. This worship is led by the Headteacher, Deputy Head or teachers. Recently, children have been exploring the theme of Spirituality. Twice a month, each Key stage attends collective worship at St. Luke's Church (led by the rector or the curate).
Thursday	Class Worship, planned by and led by members of the worship council within the class. These lead on from themes and teachings introduced in Monday's worship.
Friday	A whole school collective worship, led by the Headteacher. This is a celebration including certificates of achievement, attendance discussions, a focus on whole school rewards, attendance, behaviour and celebrating out of school events for individual pupils.

In addition to this, visiting groups and individuals are welcomed into the school to lead worship. We aim to include the children in the planning and delivery of our Collective Worship, wherever possible.

Collective Worship should last approximately 15 minutes.

Worship Council
St Luke's have an enthusiastic and creative worship council which consists of two children from each class from year 2 upwards.
KS1 Worship Councillors meet with the Worship Co-ordinator on Tuesday lunchtimes to plan their Class Worship session for that week based on themes taught during Monday's worship.
KS2 Worship Councillors meet with the Headteacher on Monday lunchtimes to plan their Class Worship session for that week based on themes taught during Monday's worship.

The worship councillors also provide feedback on all aspects of collective worship. Their role includes, monitoring, delivering and facilitating others to lead acts of worship, such as preparing the altar, lighting the candle and leading the gather and send. They also meet with the rector and work with her to deliver acts of worship in the church.

Planning, Content and Detail
The themes for collective worship reflect our values, the Church calendar, our school ethos and current events.
Whole school worship begins with the children entering the hall usually accompanied by a

piece of music. An altar displays the cloth appropriate for the season of the Anglican calendar, a cross and a bible. The candle on the altar table is lit and the worship begins. The children are regularly involved in the worship, which finishes with a prayer and includes the Anglican versicles. The candle is then blown out before any messages are given. This allows for us to make a clear distinction between worship and assembly. The children then lead out as the music is played.

The Four Part Model

This four part model for worship is unpacked below based on a very helpful resource called Flippin Praise (http://www.churchschoolseast.org.uk/documents/A4FlippinPraisetouse.pdf). The principles can be applied to whole school, phase and class worship settings. SLT, the Worship Councillors and class teachers use this when planning their collective worship.

Gathering

A distinctive atmosphere and a clearly visible focus point are important. There should be a feeling of expectation as people gather for worship.
We gather together and greet each other. We all come to play a part in this community. We are preparing to meet with God.
Think about…
How is the room arranged?
How are people greeted?
Does everyone know their role?

Engaging

This may be the main part in an act of worship. In a Church school, it should encourage children to engage with the Bible, Christian teaching, and most importantly, with God.
We engage with the big things and the little things in life. We encounter Jesus and the stories of the Bible. We are listening for God's message to us.
Think about…
How will you share the message? From the Bible? God's people in history? God's people today?
What strategies will you use?
Will you use your own experience or current events?

Responding

For every child and adult present, some response should be possible. All should understand that this is time set aside for deep thought and for each to respond in an appropriate way.
We respond to what we have heard and seen. We respond together and as individuals. We are given the opportunity to worship God.
Think about…
Will you spend time thinking or reflecting?
Will you pray?
Will you do something practical as a response? How?

Sending

The ending of the act of worship should be full of purpose, as people are sent out to be different and to 'do' differently.
We are sent out to love and serve one another and to make a difference in the world. We are all dismissed with God's blessing
Think about…
How will people be sent out of worship?
Will there be special words? A blessing? A dismissal?
Who will lead this?

Prayer and Reflection

Collective worship always includes a time of prayer and/or reflection, including hymn practice. A range of prayers is used including the Lord's Prayer, prayers written by the children and others. They are introduced in an appropriate manner with a short time of quiet. The school is actively developing the children's confidence in reciting simple liturgy. At the beginning of the whole school worship led by the Headteacher or Deputy Head, a time of reflection and quiet is encouraged by the lighting of candles. A cross is also displayed on the altar table.

Before Lunch and occasionally at the end of the day, classes give thanks and reflect while the teacher or children say a short prayer.

Memory verses
Each half term, every class has a memory verse from the bible to learn and be able to recite. These are linked to the themes of that half term and differentiated according to the age of the children by the length and use of vocabulary.

Prayer spaces
For a week each year, an area of the school is set up with prayer activities which enable children to explore life's questions, spirituality, faith and to reflect in a safe, creative and interactive way. Volunteers from the church and wider Christian community help to run this event. Each class has a timetabled slot to visit this space and the option to bring parents with them after school.

Other Faiths

At St Luke's 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. The class led 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
Evaluations of Class Worship sessions are carried out by the worship council at the end of each half term and feedback is given to the worship coordinator. These, along with rotas and details of visits are kept in the worship coordinator file. Training is encouraged and available for those who wish to lead acts of worship.

Visits and visitors
As part of the curriculum, St Luke's School 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. St Luke's Church is our most valuable and frequently used resource, with the whole school attending and contributing towards annual services. These services include Harvest Festival, Christingle, Easter Service and Communion service.

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.

Collective Worship Subject Leader Responsibilities

- Assist governors and Headteacher in fulfilling their legal responsibilities with respect to Collective Worship.
- Ensure that collective worship maintains a high profile in the life of the school through displays / resources / artefacts visible in the school.
- Write / review the school's collective worship policy in consultation with the Headteacher, staff and governors
- Ensure staff and governors are aware of and use the policy document
- Plan a programme of worship for the year
- Work with staff, children and visitors to support the planning & delivery of worship
- Evaluate and review provision for Collective Worship with governors and staff. Update as appropriate the schools self-evaluation for SIAMS
- Plan for the development of Collective Worship (included in the school development plan).
- Develop documentation for planning, monitoring, evaluating and recording acts of worship.
- Develop an adequate range of resources for worship.
- Attend relevant inset & disseminate information to staff
- Liaise with a variety of people, including the parish clergy, diocesan advisers and visitors who can advise and support the delivery of Collective Worship.