



ST LAURENCE CHURCH
JUNIOR SCHOOL

Collective Worship Policy

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(To be reviewed on a two-year cycle)

'Learning, Loving and Sharing, guided by Jesus'

St Laurence Church Junior School Collective Worship Policy

‘Start children off on the way they should go,
and even when they are old they will not turn from it.’

Proverbs 22:6

Collective worship reflects the traditions of the Church of England and develops learners' understanding of Anglican traditions and practice. At St Laurence Church Junior School, worship is central to our life and community and it reflects the Christian values and ethos of the school. It is an important act that unites our school family together, to support each other and celebrate part of our special community. It helps shape who we are as individuals and a school. It is an important time to reaffirm our vision and values. The Trust Deed and school vision statement inform the policy and practice of collective worship at St Laurence Church Junior School.

Aim:

At St Laurence Church Junior School, the aim of our daily collective worship is to provide an opportunity for members of the school community to:

- learn about and worship God
- reflect upon the Christian traditions of the school
- reinforce and reflect upon the Christian values and the shared vision of the school
- partake in invitational, inclusive and inspiring worship
- consider the Church Year and introduce the Trinitarian nature of God
- cultivate spiritual, emotional and moral growth and respect for others in accordance with our Christian values
- encounter the teachings of Jesus and the Bible to understand the morals and values that we live by
- appreciate the relevance of faith in today's world
- provide an opportunity for personal reflection
- develop a sense of community that is loving and caring
- reflect a concern for individual needs through prayers for individuals
- celebrate the achievements of the whole school, groups and individuals across all areas of the curriculum and school life.

We maintain close links with the Parish Church (St Laurence) through:

- Regular meetings with the Church Wardens at St Laurence Church
- Ensuring children and staff visit the church for worship regularly
- Involving clergy and other church members in the school's life
- Implementing a Eucharist service in Church for all staff at the start of the year and for the children throughout the year
- Celebrating Christian Festivals through whole school services
- Encouraging people from the parish to be involved with our school life (for example, through reading with the children)
- Visiting other Christian places of worship in Northfield

Through collective worship, the children in our care are made aware of what it means to be part of a community under God that is committed to serving and caring for each other and for our world, regardless of belief, gender, age, race, culture, sexuality, disability and faith.

Pupils are encouraged to consider issues in the world for themselves, reflect upon and learn from their own experiences and the experiences of others, and to develop a sense of wonder, awe and mystery for the world of which they are part.

Members of our school community will develop spiritually in Collective Worship and find 'what makes them spark'. A common language is used when discussing spirituality: 'windows' (exposing the children to issues and questions about the world around them) 'mirrors' (allowing the children to reflect upon their knowledge and understanding) and 'doors' (children will consider how their own actions and beliefs may change going forward).

Every member of our school should benefit from collective worship whatever their academic ability and personal belief. Therefore, worship should be appropriate to a range of abilities, aptitudes and interests, and incorporate various media e.g. story, song, poetry, drama, etc., taking the opportunity, where possible, to use material produced by the children in their classroom studies.

Organisation

These expectations should be followed for all types of worship to ensure that the children understand that they are participants in the service and that it is a special time to be in the presence of God:

- A piece of music will play for pupils and adults to listen to as they enter the hall.
- Pupils will enter the hall quietly and calmly, showing that they are ready to listen and understand that this is a special time of gathering.
- The seating organisation is constructed to reflect a church, with a central aisle.
- To indicate that it is time for worship, prayer and reflection, the cross and candles will be carried down the aisle and placed upon the altar at the front of the hall, by four children from designated year groups, the candles will then be lit. At the same time, we will all sing Kyrie Eleison.
- Members of the Prayer Council will say a greeting to begin the worship.
- The altar cloth will reflect the liturgical colours pertaining to the calendar; it will be changed by the Head boy and Head girl when required at the start of the relevant worship.
- A prayer shall be shared and a hymn sung or music played during collective worship.
- Children will be provided the opportunity of time for reflection.
- The prayer Councillors will say words of dismissal.
- At the end of the worship, pupils will spend time quietly reflecting until it is their turn to leave the hall; a piece of music shall be playing.

A variety of visitors will be invited into school throughout the year in order to share their experiences and allow the children to hear first-hand accounts. Visitors include: Birmingham City Mission, charity spokespeople (often relating to our Lenten project), professional sports players, Open the Book.

Reading is encouraged throughout our half termly 'reading worship'; a book is read which follows the theme of our current school value.

Daily Collective Worship should last approximately 15 minutes.

Our current worship schedule is as follows:

Monday

Worship is held by SLT - themes are taken from 'Roots and Fruits' a collective worship book which was recommended by Birmingham Diocese for Education and follows a theme for each half term. Alternatively, worship may be based on our school value or a religious festival.

Tuesday

Picture News in class – children consider an important relevant question about the world around them. Children are given the opportunity to ask questions and respond and reflect on the issue. British Values are also discussed. Children will listen to a Bible reference and reflection in class. The Christian Collective Worship lesson resources must be used. One year group per week meet in the hall to worship together.

Wednesday

Whole school worship led by a member of clergy, a staff member or a visiting speaker. The theme is our school value or an important event in the school calendar.

Thursday

Singing practice, with prayer/reflection time, led by teacher leading music (S. Camwell).

Friday

Whole School Worship

Celebration assembly led by senior leaders. Family and friends are welcome to join us in our celebrations. There will also be a 'musician of the week', showcasing their talent on Friday. Children will write a prayer or reflection and it will be read in this worship.

Best Practice in Collective Worship

Worship should be **invitational**

Everyone is welcome to take part in collective worship, as much or as little as they or their parents and carers are comfortable with. This means we use invitational language and consider carefully our choice of words and songs. Children are invited to pray but are not compelled or expected to do so; they always have a choice. We invite them to pray or reflect in whatever way they would usually as a family, if that is part of their home experience.

Worship should be **inclusive**

Acts of worship are to be inclusive of all. Therefore, we choose topics and ideas that are shared by different faiths and worldviews. When we present Christian teaching, we make it clear that this is 'what Christians believe'. Inclusion requires pupil involvement in planning, leading and the evaluation of worship. We also offer a variety of activities, so that children and young people with differing needs can all find something they can engage with. Where children are unable to join the whole school in the hall for worship (due to SEND or sensory issues), Mrs Hamilton holds worship in the Pastoral Room daily. Mrs Hamilton and the Worship lead teacher meet regularly to discuss suitable activities for these children, which promote spiritual growth.

Worship should be **inspiring**

We aim for our acts of worship to inspire those engaging with them. How might it engage their emotions, enabling a sense of peace, comfort, hope or motivation? How might it inspire them into

action, into thinking differently and considering their behaviour or actions? How might it inspire them to reflect on their faith or beliefs, and on the faith or beliefs of others? We want to inspire all through stories, examples of leadership and help children understand how they can be leaders and make a positive difference through their actions and voice. We want to help them to think differently, and to reflect on their and the wider community's behaviour and actions. As a result of inspirational collective worship, they should be inspired to become courageous advocates of causes. It should encourage them to think searchingly about their faith, beliefs and/or philosophical convictions.

Pupil leadership

The Prayer Council are regularly involved in leading collective worship and prayers. They evaluate collective worship and plan and deliver collective worship.

Planning

Children will:

- Write their own prayers to share at the end of worship.
- Help the Prayer Councillor plan collective worship

Set up

Children will:

- Help set up the hall and worship table
- Greet pupils at the door and help set the atmosphere of collective worship

Worship

Children will:

- Take part in Drama activities
- Support teachers with music, video clips and PowerPoint slides.
- Ask and answer questions in pairs or in response to the worship leader.
- Read or saying prayers.
- Lead actions or signing to songs.

Gathering

Children will:

- Say a welcoming sentence.
- Sing the Kyrie

Sending

Children will:

- Blow out the candles.
- Saying the words of sending

Leaving

Children will:

- Hold doors open for those leaving.
- Put away equipment and chairs.

Responding/recording

Children will:

- regularly have time to revisit key messages and values in class
- share their responses to collective worship in the Collective Worship Evaluation book, in reflections and prayers written for Friday
- record their responses regularly in their class QQR book

Evaluating

Children will:

- Regularly evaluate collective worship
- Work together to look at evaluations and plan the next steps for Collective Worship.

A child from each class is chosen to be the Class Prayer Councillor, their role includes greeting and dismissing during collective worship, changing the prayer cloth in the class worship area, ensuring the end of day prayer is said and taking part in services at school and in Church.

Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation

The daily act of collective worship is viewed as an integral and important part of school life at St Laurence Church Junior School. Through this and in the general ethos of the school we seek to promote Christian Values. It is a time where we come together to share our love of God and celebrate our achievements (and sometimes failures) together. The contributions of staff, pupils, church clergy, parents and other visitors are valued highly.

The planning, monitoring and evaluation of collective worship involves a range of members of the community, including staff, children and governors. A record of the Collective Worship rota is kept in the Collective Worship folder on the computer system. Prayer Councillors are encouraged to partake in the planning of the music used in Collective Worship and in choosing the greetings and dismissals.

Monitoring by the Collective Worship Co-ordinator is through participation in worship, the planning records, prayer spaces around school and Collective Worship Learning Journey.

Evaluation of acts of worship are completed by the children – there is an upper school and lower school evaluation book. The Prayer Council review this evaluation and we discuss how to improve worship.

Withdrawal from Worship

Parents are entitled to withdraw their child from all or part of the programme of collective worship. Parents do not need to explain their reasons for this; although they are encouraged to discuss the following with the Headteacher:

- The religious issues about which the parent would object to their child being taught
- The practical implications of withdrawal
- The circumstances in which it would be reasonable to accommodate parents' wishes
- If parents require any advance notice of such visitors or themes in the future

The school will remain responsible for the supervision of children withdrawn from collective worship unless the child is taking part in collective worship elsewhere at the same time.