



## All Saints Church School

Last Updated May 2023

In our school our Christian vision shapes all we do.

### ***Mark 4:23 'All things are possible if you believe'***

'Collective Worship in a Church school should enable every child and adult to flourish and to live life in all its fullness. (John 10:10). It will help educate for wisdom, knowledge and skills, hope and aspiration, dignity and respect, and developing community and understanding of living well together.

### **Policy Statement**

At All Saints Church School worship is central to the life of the school and is the main platform for exploring the school's vision. It is well planned and of high quality so that the whole school community is engaged on a journey of discovery, exploring the teachings of Jesus and the Bible.

For Christians in Church, worship is about honouring God and responding to the loving nature of God as revealed through the Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. A school is not a Church but is a collection of people who come from a variety of backgrounds for the purpose of education. The family backgrounds may be very different and collective worship must take account of the varied circumstances of staff and pupils.

At All Saints Church School collective worship aims to be inspirational, invitational and inclusive and will enable people to witness worship and join in, if they wish.

Through collective worship pupils will be offered a space and a place for the telling of the Christian story. They will be offered an understanding of worship through being invited to participate in or observe prayer, reading and reflection on the Bible, liturgy, sacrament and experience of the musical and other imaginative riches of Christianity. Opportunities to reflect on the beauty, joy and pain of the world will be given. Pupils will be given time to consider their responsibilities to others and to grow in love and service. Time will be given for celebration, both for the accomplishments of school members and to mark the seasonal festivals of the Christian (*and other faiths*) calendar. Pupils will be offered time to be able to contemplate and develop spiritually.

### **Legal Requirements**

There must be a daily act of collective worship in all maintained schools for all pupils, other than those in a nursery class or a nursery school. This can take place at any time in the school day and in any groupings. Collective worship in a Church of England School must be in accordance with the tenets and practices of the Church of England. In other words, the law on collective worship that applies in a community school, "that it should be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character", is not relevant. Worship in All Saints Church School should be distinctly Christian and reflect Anglican traditions.

The governing body at All Saints Church School have the responsibility for ensuring that the school meets the requirements for worship detailed in the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist



Schools (SIAMS) Evaluation Document. They are also tasked with monitoring and evaluating the impact of worship on the school community in consultation with the headteacher.

## **The right of withdrawal**

At All Saints Church School there are a small number of children whose families are members of another faith, or who hold a non-religious world view. Part of the distinctively Christian nature of Church of England Schools is that they should be as hospitable and inclusive to all in the community they serve. As collective worship occupies such a central place in the life of the Church school, this should be made clear on induction, and it is hoped that parents will be making a specific choice of the school knowing that the distinctive ethos will determine a Christian tradition within collective worship.

The 1944 and 1988 Education Acts state that parents have the right to withdraw children from collective worship and suitable arrangements should be made to accommodate these children.

On occasions, a parent may make a request for their child to be withdrawn from collective worship. There is an expectation that parents wishing to request a withdrawal will meet with the headteacher to discuss their concerns and requirements. It may be helpful to establish:

- The elements of worship in which the parent would object to the child taking part
- The other aspects of school life that are impacted by the Christian foundation of the school such as prayer and reflective areas
- The practical implications of withdrawal
- Whether the parent will require any advanced notice of such worship, and if so, how much

Where parents have withdrawn their children from collective worship and request religious worship according to their particular faith or denomination, the governors and head teacher will seek to respond positively to such requests providing:

- Such arrangements can be made at no additional cost to the school
- That the alternative provision would be consistent with the overall purposes of the school curriculum as set out in the Education Acts

If the Parent asks that a pupil should be wholly or partly excused from attending any religious worship at the school, then the school must comply.

*(This means that a parent may, for example, request their child does not take part in a carol service when otherwise the child takes part in daily collective worship.)*

## **Guiding Principles**

Collective worship in All Saints Church School aims to:

- Have a pivotal place in the life of the school.
- Support pupils and adults in their spiritual growth
- Be the central vehicle by which the school's vision is unpacked and explored so that the whole school community is challenged and engaged with the teachings of Jesus and the Bible.
- Provide an experience of worship that will offer opportunities for those present to observe and/or respond to the presence, power and peace of God as understood by Christians. This



will always be invitational, offering an opportunity to take part whilst allowing the freedom for those of other faiths and none to be present with integrity.

- Support pupils in the development of their understanding of the Trinitarian nature of God in Christian belief
- Provide a variety of different opportunities for reflection, understanding of diverse liturgical traditions, participation, challenge and enjoyment where all present can be actively involved and develop their own spirituality whilst contributing to the communal journey.
- Help children to become familiar with Christian language and symbolism and the cycle of the Church year so that they are offered a pattern of meanings and a framework into which they can begin to integrate experience.
- Explore a variety of ways of praying, giving children the opportunity to form their own prayers using multi-sensory foci and introduce them to some well know Christian prayers, as well as a variety of prayers of thanksgiving before mealtimes and home time.
- Offer opportunities to all children and staff to develop their skills in planning, leading and evaluating the impact of school worship with the support and shared engagement of the local church community. Pupils will be at the centre of this process taking on increasingly independent roles in planning and leading worship.
- Ensure that materials and themes for worship are carefully selected to make sure pupils understand the work of Christians and the church locally, nationally and globally and how this reflects the teachings of the Bible and the example of Jesus.

## **Development of the policy and links to other policies and documentation**

We ensure that the principles for collective worship are reflected and applied in our policies and practice including those that are concerned with:

- Pupils' personal development and wellbeing
- SMSC and PSHE
- Staff recruitment, retention and professional development
- Care, guidance and support
- Behaviour, discipline and exclusions
- Working in partnership with parents, carers and guardians
- Working with the wider community

We also ensure that information about collective worship is included on the school website

## **How Collective worship is organised**

### **Leadership**

- Who leads daily worship e.g. the headteacher, a member of staff, a pupil or small group of pupils, a whole class, a member of the clergy or local church, individual visitors or teams e.g. Open the Book, Daniel England
- How support and guidance is given to visitors leading worship. An information leaflet for visitors is produced by the Diocese

### **Planning**

- Collective Worship is planned using GERS (Gather, Engage, Respond and Send) structure. A time table is planned, with a half termly focus on each of our Christian Values as well as a variety of religious festivals and meaningful dates.
- All children are offered the opportunity plan and deliver collective w orship, either in class or as a whole school. The focus can either follow the Christian Value or, as advocates and



ambassadors, children may choose to deliver meaningful and current messages relating to the both the local and wider community and beyond.

- Collective worship for each Christian year is discussed by the Senior Leadership Team and Reverend Nick. This is then shared with staff and the ethos team.
- How the Christian values of the school are identified, expressed and celebrated through collective worship

Our recent Christian Values were identified by the whole school community. During the later part of 2021 and throughout 2022, the school community came together to discuss which Christian Values we all felt were the most pertinent to All Saints Church School. A newly established Ethos committee met regularly to plan events where staff and pupils were able to deeply understand each value in relation to the Bible and everyday life. Vision and Values Days were extremely successful in helping to deeply root our chosen values within the school community.

- How explicit links are made between Bible stories and the Christian values of the school
- How a pattern for worship is used which reflects Anglican tradition
- The range and variety of materials used, including: websites, artefacts, stories, drama scripts, artwork, music, songs, film clips, focal points e.g. a picture or candle

A wide variety of resources are utilised to ensure all attendees within the school community can access the meaning of each collective worship.

At the beginning of each collective worship, three candles are lit to represent the Holy Trinity of God. At this time collective worship leaders (Year 6) come forward and announce, 'Jesus is here'. Those attending respond with, 'His spirit is with us'.

Throughout a typical week of collective worship, we aim to ensure all those listening and watching can access the teachings, by always considering the visual, auditory and kinaesthetic element of learning. We use artefacts, photos, Bibles, drama scripts, artwork, music, instruments, songs, film clips.

- How opportunities are provided for children and adults to explore faith in today's world  
At the end of a collective worship the school community are asked to further develop and explore their understanding in class. A reflective opportunity is provided for staff and children to further deepen their understanding, whilst relating their learning to their own lives. The outcomes of this can be seen in the floor books within each class.

Within each class a reflection area supports the exploration of values and world faiths.

- How the Christian belief in the Trinitarian nature of God is explored
- How spiritual growth through prayer, stillness and reflection is nurtured

## Organisation

How is CW organised to take account of:

- The different groupings for worship, including whole school/key stage/class worship
  - Throughout the school week, Collective worship is delivered in a variety of ways. Staff and pupils from across the school are invited to attend whole school collective worships. These are led by the Senior Leadership Team, Reverend Nick, Daniel England (local pastor), Open the Book or a group of school ambassadors.
  - Key Stage Worship is led by teachers
  - Class Worship is led by class teachers or pupils or both
  - On a Tuesday the school gathers together to learn worship through song
  - On a Friday we have a Praise Assembly where different classes share their learning with parents and carers
- The different settings and places for worship; how the worship space is made special; and how the atmosphere for worship is created using:



The liturgical colours of the seasons of the Church Year are displayed by the cloth covering the altar positioned at the front of the school hall. Candles represent the Holy Trinity, and a Bible is placed open at the appropriate page on the altar. A wooden cross is placed at the centre of the altar.

Music is played as children enter the hall and leave, photos are displayed to support wonder and reflection.

Collective Worship leaders (Year 6) come forward and announce, 'Jesus is here'. Those attending respond with, 'His spirit is with us'.

Children are usually seated in classes, facing the interactive white board when in the school hall. However, this can change, depending on whether drama is being incorporated.

Collective Worship also takes place in our forest area, a calm and spiritual space. We also regularly attend St Catherine's Church, both for community services as well as school services.

- At what point in the school day worship is held and the amount of time allocated
- Collective Worship takes place at 10:45am each day other than on a Friday where this takes place in the afternoon due to parents and carers attending.

### **Roles and Responsibilities**

- The governing body
- The headteacher and the senior leadership team
- Clergy and church partners
- Teaching and support staff
- Pupils
- Parents and carers
- Visitors

### **Staff development and training**

We ensure that all staff, including support staff, receive appropriate training and opportunities for professional development, both as individuals and as groups or teams.

### **Monitoring and evaluation**

- The practical strategies used to monitor and evaluate the impact of worship
- Who is involved in monitoring and evaluating the impact of worship e.g children, staff, link/foundation governors, clergy
- Evidence to show how the monitoring and evaluation of worship has led to its strengthening and development over time

### **Disseminating the policy**

We ensure that this policy is known to all staff and governors, parents and carers and, as appropriate, to all pupils. This policy is available on our school website.

### **Other Useful Documents:** (can be found on the diocesan website)

- Guidance for visitors leading collective worship, including a code of conduct
- Example Visitors Leaflet about collective worship
- Collective Worship Planning Proformas
- Evaluation and Monitoring – Ideas and Systems
- Suggested Resources for Collective Worship
- Spirituality – What is it?



**Date of last review:**

Headteacher signed:

*S. Bowditch*      Date: February 2024

Chair of Governors signed:

*S. Foy*      Date: February 2024