

St Saviour's CofE Academy

Collective Worship Policy

With our faith and love, we believe, grow and achieve in ourselves, each other and our community. So we must love one another. As I have loved you, by this everyone will know that you are my disciples". John 13:34-35

At St Saviour's C of E Academy, worship is viewed as an integral part of school life. Through our school values of 'Respect, Forgiveness, Aspiration, Honesty, Friendship and Perseverance' we seek to promote our motto:

'Believe, Grow, Achieve with Christ'

Collective Worship gives us the opportunity to come together as a community. It is attended and led by the staff, clergy and pupils. We also invite any visitors to the school to join us.

At St Saviour's C of E Academy, we also recognise that Collective Worship is an important opportunity to embed children's Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development.

Aims

It is our aim at St Saviour's C of E Academy that worship should: -

- Take the opportunity to ask God to bless the whole school, as we ensure that every child is special in His care, and thank Him.
- Contribute to the spiritual, social, moral and cultural development of each child.
- Give expression to, and reaffirm and practise the values of the school community.
- Allow reflection and response to the fundamental big questions of life and those things that are of eternal concern and value to human beings.
- Celebrate and give thanks for the achievements within the school, local and international community and occasions of significance, including festivals.
- Foster and enable a concern for the needs of others, a recognition of the vulnerability of self and of others.
- Provide members of the school community with the opportunity to praise and reach out to God.
- Provide members of the school community with the opportunity to experience stillness and quiet.
- Provide members of the school community with the opportunity to respond to Christian language and symbolism.
- Provide members of the school community with the opportunity to experience a variety of forms of prayer and meditation. These might include praise, seeking forgiveness, asking on behalf of self and others or quiet reflection.

- To help students to begin to understand the nature and purpose of worship.
- Provide a foundation for a mature understanding and practice of worship in the future.

Christian Values

We identify the values of *Friendship, Honesty, Respect, Perseverance, Forgiveness and Aspiration*.

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

John 13:34-35 So we must love one another. As I have loved you, by this everyone will know that you are my disciples". John 13:34-35

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

Values Education

We blend Christian teaching and Values Education 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.

Legal Status of Collective Worship

The 1988 Education Reform Act requires that 'all pupils in attendance at a maintained school shall on each day take part in an act of Collective Worship'. We seek to do our best to keep the spirit of this legislation seeking to provide as many high quality acts of worship as is practically possible.

To provide students with variety in their experience of worship acts of worship may take the form of a whole school act of worship for all pupils or separate acts of worship for students in different age groups or school groups. Collective Worship may be held at any time during the school day.

The responsibility for arranging school worship in our school rests with the Principal.

All acts of worship are in accordance with the guidance issued in circular 1/94 which states that worship should be of a 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character' and not distinctive of any particular Christian denomination. By broadly Christian in this school we mean that: -

- Worship contains some elements that accord special status to Jesus, his teachings and actions, e.g. The Sermon on the Mount.

- Sharing with students the Christian belief that all Christians are called to continue Jesus' work of love and compassion for their fellow human beings through the exploration of key Christian concepts such as Love, trust, forgiveness, mercy, humility, courage and integrity, respect for life, value of an individual, justice, co-operation and service, honesty and truthfulness.

Acts of Collective Worship at St Saviour's C of E Academy take into account the pupil's ages, aptitudes and family backgrounds.

The school recognises that there is a difference between Acts of Collective Worship and the assembly of students. On some occasions assembly may proceed or follow an Act of Collective Worship. When this happens the transition from Assembly to worship will be marked by the lighting of a candle and reflecting an image on the whiteboard, moment of silences and reflection.

Rights of Withdrawal

At St Saviour's C of E Academy we seek to be an inclusive community however, we respect the right of parents to withdraw their children for Collective Worship. This school expects that withdrawal will only be made following parental discussion with the Principal followed by a written confirmation of withdrawal.

Planning, Recording and Evaluation

Collective worship will be treated like any other part of the curriculum when it comes to matters of planning, delivery, resourcing and evaluation. The content and methodology of Collective Worship will be varied and there will be evidence of this in planning. Each person leading worship is asked to plan his or her act of worship in as much detail as they would any learning activity.

Organisation

We aim to provide a variety of worship experiences for the children. Our current schedule is as follows:

Monday	Whole school worship led by the Rev. Iain Baker/Curate Tom Chapman
Tuesday	Key Stage worship
Wednesday	Class worship
Thursday	Praise worship
Friday	Celebration worship

Whole school collective worship is planned and delivered by the clergy of St Thomas' church. Key Stage collective worship is delivered by SLT, teaching staff and pupils following 'Roots and Fruits 2' rooted in the life and teaching of Jesus. Class

worship is delivered by teachers and pupils following 'Picture News'. It is recognised that teachers may feel that they need to respond to local or national events during Picture News worship. Celebration worship is led by Year 6 pupils. We aim to include the children in the planning and delivery of our Collective Worship, wherever possible.

Other Faiths

At St Saviour's C of E Academy, 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

Each class has their own worship book that can be found on the prayer space in each classroom. These contain evidence of the children's work, thoughts and reflections. A file is kept on the school staff shared area, recording details of each act of worship. Training is encouraged and available for those who lead acts of worship.

Written Summer 2024

Review Summer 2025

Principal L. Davis

Signed 

Chair of Governors M. Weller

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