

ST LUKE'S CE ACADEMY

Collective Worship Policy



<u>Adopted:</u>	<u>September 2023</u>
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<u>Chair of LAC:</u>	<u>Mrs S Gibbons</u>
<u>Next Review Date</u>	<u>September 2024</u>

Our School Vision

St Luke's CE Academy is a **loving family** that has a heart to be at the **centre of the community**. Our pupils learn to be **positive change makers** looking to **our own and others' needs**. This is underpinned by a holistic approach to life with the **golden thread of our Christian values**.

How is this Collect Worship policy a reflection of our distinctive Christian vision?

On a daily basis, collective worship at St Luke's embodies our distinctive Christian vision, core Christian values and inspires spiritual growth and development. Through thoughtful planning and delivery of collective worship, as a school community, we gather to share and enjoy listening to Bible passages. During our reflection time, we are given the opportunity to contemplate the words and actions of biblical role models, identify the Christian values depicted and appreciate the relevance of Jesus' teachings in today's world.

We strive to ensure the best possible spiritual journey for children in our care by encouraging the development of positive attitudes and deep-rooted Christian values. As a school community, our attitudes and actions are underpinned by 'The 5 Bs of Great Learning' as demonstrated by biblical role models.

- Be Honest Like Zacchaeus
- Be Considerate Like The Good Samaritan
- Be Positive Like Daniel
- Be Determined Like Noah
- Be the Best You Can Be Like Mary

Inspired by collective worship, both pupils and staff are enthusiastic to demonstrate love and compassion in their daily lives, not only towards each other, but they have a heartfelt desire to become courageous advocates and make a positive difference to others locally, nationally and globally. By giving hope and being a beacon of light for others, our school community lives up to our affirmation of ***Helping Lights Shine for All (Luke 11:33)***

An Introduction to collective worship at St Luke's CE Academy

As a Church of England school, collective worship at St Luke's is significantly viewed as the beating heart to our school life by giving life to all that we do. Collective worship is a sacred part of the school day when we gather as a united loving school family to worship and share a love of God and celebrate our achievements. Collective worship not only strengthens and supports the distinctive Christian identity of the school as a means by which the school's Christian vision and Christian values are expressed, it also celebrates the significant role that each pupil and adult plays in our community.

Our daily Christian act of worship is central to our ethos and is supported by all staff, governors and our historical partnership with St Luke's Church. It makes an important contribution to the overall spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of the whole school community.

Our daily act of collective worship is in accordance with the Trust Deed of our academy which requires worship to be consistent with the faith, principles and practices of the Church of England.

As such, our collective worship is distinctly Christian and displays a variety of traditions found in the Church of England. For example, we recognise and follow the Christian liturgical year displaying liturgical season colours on the Worship Table in the hall and on worship areas in each classroom.

Each adult and pupil will experience worship that is truly welcoming, inclusive and exemplifying the principles of Christian hospitality.

Collective worship therefore will be:

- **Inclusive** – Our acts of worship recognise that pupils and staff come from homes of different faith backgrounds as well as no faith backgrounds, so it will be inclusive of, and fully accessible to all. Care will be taken to ensure that language used by those facilitating worship avoids assuming faith of those participating, listening or watching.
- **Invitational** – In our acts of worship, there is no compulsion to ‘do anything.’ Rather, worship will provide the opportunity to engage whilst allowing the freedom of those of different faiths and those who profess no religious faith to be present and to engage with respect and integrity. Pupils and adults will only be invited to pray and sing if they wish to do so.
- **Inspiring** – By asking and discussing big questions about who we are and what we do in worship we hope to motivate pupils and adults into action. There will be opportunities to think, reflect and ponder on their and the wider community’s behaviour and actions.

Aims of collective worship

Collective Worship offers pupils, staff and the wider school community the opportunity to:

- Gather together to share sacred moments of joy, challenge, grief and love.
- Explore the school’s distinctive Christian vision and values in action
- Reflect on the nature of God and on the teachings of Christ through Biblical texts
- Express praise and thanksgiving to God
- Be still, pray and reflect
- Explore the big questions of life and respond to national events
- Foster respect and deepen spiritual awareness
- Explore Christian values and attitudes
- Share each other’s joys and challenges
- Celebrate significant and special times in the Christian calendar

In line with the requirements of the requirements of the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) schedule, we aim to ensure that collective worship:

- a) Offers the opportunity, without compulsion, to all pupils and adults to grow spiritually through experiences of prayer, stillness, worship and reflection whether they are engaged in learning in school or at home.
- b) Enables all pupils and adults to appreciate that Christians worship in different ways, for example using music, silence, story, prayer, reflection, the varied liturgical and other traditions of Anglican/Methodist worship and festivals.
- c) Helps pupils and adults to appreciate the relevance of faith in today's world, to encounter the teachings of Jesus and the Bible and to develop their understanding of the Christian belief in the Trinitarian nature of God and its language.
- d) Enables pupils as well as adults to engage in the planning, leading and evaluation of collective worship in ways that lead to improving practice. Leaders of worship, including clergy, have access to regular training.
- e) Encourages local church community partnerships to support the school effectively in developing its provision for collective worship.

The Anglican Christian Tradition

The following are shared as Christian element of collective worship through invitation and inclusive language.

- Exploring the Christian understanding of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit
- Using the Bible for inspiration, stories and guidance
- Observing the cycle of the Church's Year – Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, Pentecost and Saints Days amongst ordinary days
- Saying prayers from a number of sources, in particular the Lord's Prayer and the blessings in common used
- Singing a wide variety of hymns and songs from traditional to modern
- Experiencing Christian symbols in worship and reflecting on their meaning
- The use of prayer, silence and reflection
- Using Anglican sentences and responses at the beginning and end of worship

Implementation

In consultation with the collective worship leader, collective worship is planned by a variety of stakeholders including; staff, pupils, governors, the incumbent of our local church, St Luke's Endon, and external visitors such as Rev Eleanor and youth leaders from Endon Methodist Church. Our collective worship can take place at any time of the school day and may involve either whole school, key stage or class grouping but routinely we gather in our school hall as a whole school community daily at 2.45pm.

Collective worship is planned systematically and cohesively, with staff and children planning and delivering worship in rotation. Planning for the half-term is communicated to staff in advance so that there is a shared understanding and continuity.

Each half-term our collective worship will have a given theme such as our school Christian values and Biblical role models, the parables of Jesus or a significant event in the Christian calendar i.e. Advent/Christmas, Lent/Easter. As a school, we have used collective worship planning from the different sources such as the LDBE and other dioceses and we have frequently used both Root and Fruits 1 and 2 which inspires spiritual and moral development with their 'windows, mirrors, doors' reflective structure (learn, reflect, respond). During Advent this year, we will use Jesse Tree planning from the Diocese of Bath and Wells and in the spring term we will be focusing on the theme of Spirituality using The Language of Spirituality in Collective Worship from the Diocese of Gloucester.

Picture News is also delivered weekly in school and provides opportunities for our children to learn from our world and develop respect for other's beliefs, feelings and faiths. The children are inspired to learn through exploration, emotional engagement and challenging discussion and as such, we believe this encourages our children to develop as responsible global citizens and to become courageous advocates of change locally, nationally and globally.

Christian values are demonstrated by our children on a daily basis and are recognised, celebrated and rewarded as per our behaviour policy. We gather weekly as a whole school community for our Celebration Worship where, in addition to scripture, prayers and hymns, accomplishments are celebrated and children receive a Star Award for 'shining their light' and achieving one of our Christian values.

Music during our collective worship is used on both entering and exiting worship to create a peaceful atmosphere of reflective calmness and awareness of the presence of God. On a weekly basis, we hold Worship and Song where, as a whole school, we learn, practice and reflect on the lyrics and meaning of hymns and songs of worship. This gives all present the opportunity to lift their hearts and minds in the worship of God. At St Luke's, music during collective worship certainly brings worship alive for everyone to; enjoy, have fun and feel a sense of involvement and community.

We are mindful of the variation in personal spiritual styles and provide a range of creative opportunities to enable all to engage in the acts of worship. These include; moments of silent reflection, the use of symbolism, musical engagement, delivery of Biblical stories through drama and the use of imagery, videos and presentations through the use of technology.

Our worship consists of 4 stages:

- **Gather** – we welcome the community with music, liturgy and the lighting of a candle/s
- **Engage** – we share, for example, a Bible reading, followed by an activity to engage pupils with the Christian message or Christian Value
- **Respond** – pupils, for example, discuss, share, reflect, pray or sing
- **Send** – we share, for example, the message of the worship again and ask pupils to think about how they will affect their day / learning/ behaviour. We close with liturgy, final prayer, music and the blowing out of our special candle/s.

Expectations of pupils

At St Luke's, there is an expectation that all pupils will be involved within worship on a regular basis. This may be opportunities that are planned ahead of time e.g. each year group planned and delivered a collective worship focused on stories/parables found in Luke's Gospel. Frequently, pupils are allocated roles by their class teacher to help assist them with the delivery of a collective worship; roles might include setting up hall in readiness for worship, operating the sound system to provide music, reading from the Bible, acting out a drama scenario or writing a prayer. In addition, children are always eager to participate in collective worship whether it be by readily volunteering to take part, engaging to questioning, sharing their reflections or offering to say a spontaneous prayer. Pupils are invited to evaluate and reflect on the impact of acts of worship they have joined with. Their voice is integral to improving the structure, content and in shaping future plans for worship.

Our team of worship leaders have previously had training led by Alex Wolvers (CDA) at St Luke's Church. Worship leaders are supported, encouraged and resourced to contribute meaningful acts of worship on a voluntary basis. They will meet with the collective worship leader during lunchtime to develop their own understanding of worship and plan acts of worship to design an act of worship to support the spiritual development of their peers. In addition, they are responsible for maintaining displays on the worship area in their classroom and coordinating changes in the liturgical season colours. Worship leaders also take the responsibility to lead or prompt their peers in saying Grace at the lunchtime and lead classroom prayers.

Our Spiritual Garden crew have committed time after school to develop our Spiritual Garden by planting bulbs and shrubs, making bird feeders and creating our Rainbow of Hope collage. This area will be one of peace and tranquility where children and staff can sit to feel at one with nature and reflect spiritually about the beauty around them. Our Spiritual Garden also lends to outside worship and caters for different spiritual styles such e.g. Naturalists 'loving God outdoors'.

Many of our classes and groups of children visit different places of worship to either lead or contribute to acts of worship. Annually, our Year 2 children deliver a Harvest collective worship both in school and at St Luke's for their families to attend. Similarly, our Year 3 and 4 children lead a Christingle Service for the community at St Luke's Church which includes Bible reading and worship songs. This year, as a whole school, we will be visiting Endon Methodist Church to hold a Christmas service delivered by each class of pupils. Annually, our Year 5 visit St Luke's Church on Remembrance Sunday to both take part in the service and lay a wreath on behalf of our school community.

Our school choir have visited Stoke Minister where they sang worship songs to the congregation. We celebrate Christmas with our own KS2 carol concert which is held outside on the school grounds so that we can accommodate and invite all parents to attend. Children volunteer to represent school and have roles at the Community Carol Service held at Endon Methodist Church.

Developing worship

Parents, pupils and adults in St Luke's school are entitled to be led in worship by those who have a secure understanding of the nature of collective worship in a Church School context. Therefore, all those leading worship, including clergy, should have access to regular Diocesan led training. Our collective worship leader has recently attended worship training led by the LDBE entitled 'Inclusive, Invitational, Inspirational Collective Worship'.

The leader for collective worship will:

- Ensure that all pupils have access to a daily act of collective worship, therefore meeting statutory requirements.
- Ensure that collective worship is inclusive, invitational and inspiring.
- Attend regular training and network meetings with Lichfield Diocese
- Produce and regularly review the collective worship policy to ensure that it remains reflects current practice and thinking.
- Liaise with the HT and Governors to feedback on the monitoring and impact of collective worship across the school.
- Ensure all stakeholders know what the expectations of worship are when leading, planning and joining worship.
- Join those who are leading worship to provide supportive feedback on how worship could be developed.
- Evaluate the impact of collective worship on the whole school community by gathering pupil and adult voice.
- Signpost staff to a wide range of resources to ensure that worship is both inspiring and engaging.
- Support colleagues by sharing new ideas and resources, to help develop their confidence in leading acts of worship.
- Ensure there is a school protocol that covers safeguarding procedures and a suitability process, for when visitors are invited to lead collective worship.
- Meet with and encourage pupil leaders of worship to enable them to plan, lead and evaluate acts of worship.

Visitors leading worship

Visitors to our school are asked to read and comply with our school visitor and safeguarding policy. This should include discussing the content of any worship with a member of the senior leadership in order to ascertain its suitability for the school community. Visitors are never left alone with children as the supervision of pupils remains the responsibility of school staff.

It is the responsibility of the collective worship leader and senior leaders to ensure that all visitors, who are leading worship in school, will be trained and properly briefed about the school, its pupil context and our school's vision. They will be supported and monitored as part of the ongoing evaluation process of worship.

Self-assessment and Inspection

Our school regularly evaluates all acts of collective worship and the impact they have on the school and our wider community. This involves monitoring by school leaders, staff, pupils and governors in order to grow and develop.

We also welcome the contributions of parents and pupils, which are reviewed and considered on a regular basis. These are shared with our governing body and play an integral part in developing the spiritual growth of the school.

The impact of collective worship is independently inspected by law under Section 48 of the Education Act 2005 (SIAMS).

Parental Withdrawal

Worship is regarded as special time in our school day where we gather as a school family. Reflecting our ethos as a Church of England school, collective worship is an inclusive opportunity for those of all faiths and none to be present with integrity. We respect the legal right of parents to withdraw their child/children from acts of collective worship, so would welcome the opportunity to discuss this decision with them. Following these discussions, any desire to formally withdraw children from worship must be done via a letter to the Headteacher.

Appendix

What is Collective Worship?

Legislation requires schools, including Voluntary Aided and Voluntary Controlled schools, to conduct daily acts of Collective Worship. However, the legislation does not define what is meant by the term 'Collective Worship'.

"... Worship in schools will necessarily be of a different character from worship amongst a group with beliefs in common. The legislation reflects this difference in referring to 'collective worship' rather than 'corporate worship'. (DfE Circular 1/94 para 57)

Corporate worship assumes a shared set of beliefs and values, i.e. a worshipping congregation meeting on a Sunday, where the worship is confessional and evangelistic (to spread the Christian gospel by public preaching or personal witness).

Collective worship, in recognising the collectivity of all participants, can make no such assumption that all have the same beliefs and values.

Collective Worship should be:

*"Appropriate to the family backgrounds of the pupils and their ages and aptitudes."
(DfE Circular 1/94 p.22)*

Therefore, collective worship in Church of England schools must be inclusive and invitational of all, to ensure all can be present with integrity.

The legal requirements of collective worship in Voluntary Aided and Voluntary Controlled schools.

- Be conducted in accordance with the provision of the Trust Deeds of the school and Instrument of Government and should be consistent with the beliefs and practices of the Church of England
- The Governing Body should ensure that **all** pupils **each day** engage meaningfully in a real act of Christian worship which is in accordance with the faith and practice of the Church
- Arrangements for collective worship, in foundation schools of a religious character, are the responsibility of the Governing Body, after consulting with the Headteacher (*DfE Circular 1/94 para 52 & 53*)
- All acts of worship in Church schools must be Christian in character (based on Biblical teachings)
- **All** registered pupils (apart from those whose parents exercise the right to withdraw) must on 'each school day take part in an act of collective worship'.
- If the parent asks that a pupil should be wholly or partly excused from attending collective worship at the school, then the school must comply. (*Education Reform Act 1988. s9 (3)*)
The school continues to be responsible for the supervision of any child withdrawn by its parent from collective worship.