



# Collective Worship Policy

## 2026-29

### **Next review: March 2029**

This policy has been approved by the School and Governing Body.

Headteacher: Lucy Wheatcroft

Date: 11<sup>th</sup> March 2026

Chair of Governors: Sarah Bevan

Date: 11<sup>th</sup> March 2026

**Member of staff responsible:** Mrs Karen Akrill (Religious Education and SIAMs Lead)

### **Policy Statement**

At All Saints CE Primary 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 school 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.

### **'Together we aspire, explore, believe, achieve'**

The worship of the school is based on promoting the Christian values which permeate the ethos of the school. As such, the contributions of staff, pupils, church clergy and other visitors are valued highly. It is a time when we come together to:

- Celebrate and appreciate
- Contemplate and wonder
- Inspire and enthuse
- Nurture and nourish
- Be thankful
- Reflect and pray

Our worship has 3 underlying principles:

1. It is inclusive and contributes to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of all pupils and adults. We recognise and celebrate the diversity of cultures, lifestyles, faiths and worldviews that are represented in our school and community. We aim for all to feel valued and safe.
2. It is invitational and respects the dignity of all participants. We seek to provide pupils with opportunities to explore the spiritual dimension of their lives in a distinct and valued part of the school day, giving them time to nurture reflection, stillness, meditation and prayer.
3. It is inspiring and combines a range of experiences that builds a greater understanding of our school vision and values. It assists pupils in having a greater awareness of, and opportunities to reflect on the fundamental issues of life. It includes opportunities to celebrate all achievements and respond to times of celebration as well as challenges.

### **Definition of Collective Worship**

*Collective worship in schools should aim to provide the opportunity for pupils to worship God, to consider spiritual and moral issues and to explore their own beliefs; to encourage participation and response, whether through active involvement in the presentation of worship or through listening to, watching and joining in the worship offered; and to develop community spirit, promote a common ethos and shared values, and reinforce positive attitude.*

Religious Education and Collective Worship Circular 10/94.

### **The purpose of Collective Worship**

- To celebrate the Christian faith
- To establish, affirm and celebrate the vision, values and ethos of our school
- To support the children's personal, spiritual, moral, social, cultural and development
- To support children to make links with Christian values in other areas of their life
- To give children the opportunity to contemplate and ask moral and 'big' questions
- To give the children opportunity to experience prayer, stillness, worship and reflection
- To enhance social understanding and encourage responses to issues through courageous advocacy

### **Christian Values**

Genesis 1:26-27 tells us that everyone is made in the image of God. We seek to reflect that through our Christian values which identify some of the attributes of God – love, hope and courage.

We also encourage an attitude of awe and wonder at the creation that we are part of, and our responsibility to care for our world, as well as each other. Psalm 24 v. 1 "The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein."

## **Values Education**

We blend Christian teaching and Values Education in order to create opportunities for children to develop physically, emotionally, spiritually, personally, socially, mentally and intelligently so that their self-esteem and well-being is good 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. This includes British Values and Spiritual, Moral, Cultural and Social aspects of education.

(See Appendix 1, Mapping Christian Values with Jigsaw.)

## **Collective Worship and the School Curriculum**

Collective Worship contributes to the school curriculum by:

- Supporting the values of the curriculum
- Providing opportunities for all pupils to learn and achieve
- Promoting SMSC
- Preparing pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of life

## **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 right to withdraw their children from taking part in collective worship. Requests for withdrawal should be granted without delay. The 'religious grounds' do not have to be justified and explained by the parents. Should children be withdrawn, the school must provide adequate supervision to ensure their safety. Children should not be withdrawn from Collective Worship for other purposes, e.g. reading, music lessons, to do so is to break the law.

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 – Key Stage worship led by the headteacher.
- Tuesday - Whole school worship through song, with prayer/reflection time, led by the Music coordinator. The songs and prayers are based on the current Christian Value or celebrations within the church calendar.
- Wednesday and Thursday - Class worship. The theme is based on the based on the current Christian value or PSHE theme or around the children's own questions and inquiry.
- Friday – Whole school Moving Mountains assembly led by the Deputy Head teacher. Celebration of children's achievements both academic and non-academic both in and out

of school which relate to the school vision of Together we Aspire, Believe, Explore and Achieve.

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

Worship in Reception and Year 1 Classes also occurs daily. This is based on the Value for the term and discussions or stories around SMSC and PSED.

Worship begins with the lighting of a candle and always has a period of reflection or prayer which is always invitational and inclusive. The classrooms also have a Reflective Area with the Lord's Prayer and School Prayer displayed. Children are invited to say a prayer before lunch.

### **Planning, Content and Detail**

The themes for whole school and class collective worship reflect the Church calendar, our Values focus, our school ethos and current events.

Friday's Celebration worship is led by the Headteacher or Deputy Headteachers. The achievements relate to activities both in and out of school. A child from each class is awarded a Moving Mountain award for showing our school vision of Together we Aspire, Believe, Explore and Achieve. Attendance and house point awards are also celebrated.

Every class plays their part in whole school special celebrations e.g. Harvest Festival, Carol Service and Easter Service and parents are invited in to share the experience with the children. Each class takes part in a Harvest service to which parents are invited. We also have a KS2 Carol service to which parents are invited and an Easter service without parents.

The Eco Council and School Council representatives will also lead some class assemblies during the year, largely to share the work they have been doing and to give whole school ownership over any new initiatives. These assemblies include elements of worship and allow each of the classes to discuss relevant issues and events.

### **Prayer and Reflection**

Collective worship always includes a time of (invitational) prayer and/or reflection, including worship through song. A range of prayers is used including the Lord's Prayer, the School Prayer, prayers written by the children and others. They are introduced in an appropriate manner with a short time of quiet. At the beginning of the whole school worship a time of reflection and quiet is encouraged by the lighting of a candle. A cross is also displayed on the table.

At the beginning of the lunch hour, grace is said by either an adult or child in each class. In most cases, these are taken from the class book of grace prayers and have been written by the children.

Every classroom has a Reflective Area, where the Value of the Month is explicitly shared and where the grace prayer book can be found. The Lord's Prayer and School Prayer are also displayed. Children can use these spaces if they need a moment to reflect during the school day.

The school has a display board in the reception entrance area of the school. Classes are responsible on a rota basis for creating a display based on the current Christian Value. The Christian Value is notified to parents via the school parent newsletter.

### **Other Faiths**

At All Saints CE (A) Primary School 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 sometimes reflect the R.E. studied as part of the curriculum requirements.

### **Visits and visitors**

As part of the curriculum, All Saints CE (A) Primary 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. All Saints Church is our most frequently used resource, with most year groups attending a service at the church annually. Year 2 Christingle, Year 3 Palm Sunday, Year 4 Ash Wednesday, Year 5 Pentecost and Year 6 a Leavers' Service.

### **Equal Opportunities and Special Needs Issues**

All pupils, regardless of academic ability, age, gender, ethnic origin and religion will have access to a wide range of appropriate activities to support their understanding of R.E. and engagement with Collective Worship. 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.