



St Luke's CE Primary School

Collective Worship Policy

“For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.”
Matthew 18, 20.

Reviewed at Curriculum and Achievement Meeting, May 2023
Agreed by Full Governing Body, June 2023

To be next reviewed Autumn 2024

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Matthew 18, 20.

1 Aims and purpose

The aims and purpose of collective worship are to:

- provide planned opportunities for children to worship God
- reflect on Christian values
- foster an understanding and tolerance of other faiths
- enable children to explore their own beliefs
- encourage children in planning, participation and response
- develop in children a sense of community
- promote a common ethos, with shared values, and reinforce positive attitudes
- teach children to worship in the Anglican tradition
- enable children to consider spiritual and moral issues

2 Collective worship

2.1 We understand worship to be a special act or occasion whose purpose is to show reverence to God. Collective worship involves members of the school coming together and participating in an assembly, which should be inclusive, invitational and inspiring.

2.2 In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act (see summary in appendix 1), which states that collective worship should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character', we normally base our worship on the teachings of Christ and the traditions of the Christian Church. However, this is conducted in a manner that is sensitive to the faiths and beliefs of all members of the school.

2.3 While most acts of worship in our school are Christian, we also hold assemblies that reflect the traditions of other religions that are represented in the school and the wider community. The messages and themes of these assemblies are always related back to Christianity wherever possible.

3 Organisation of collective worship

3.1 We hold a daily act of collective worship. This forms part of each morning assembly, which can be whole-school assembly, separate infant and junior assemblies, or a class assembly. The worship element of the occasion is clearly defined, usually by the lighting of a candle.

3.2 We conduct worship in a dignified and respectful way. We tell children that worship time is a period of calm reflection. We regard it as a special time, and expect children to behave in an appropriate way. We

expect them to be quiet and thoughtful, to listen carefully to the teachings, and to participate fully in prayer and hymns. We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music, candles or other objects, to focus the attention of the children.

- 3.3** Worship is normally conducted by the headteacher or other members of staff, with the vicar of St Luke's leading worship on a regular basis. Sometimes it is led by other members of St Luke's Church, other local clergy or representatives of local religious groups.
- 3.4** We take the themes of our worship from the traditions of the Christian Faith and we observe the festivals and mark the events of the Christian calendar. Sometimes the themes of our worship are related to topics that we teach as part of the school curriculum (notably PHSE) or national events.
- 3.5** Weekly "Superstar" assemblies celebrate the achievements and learning of the children. We encourage the children to participate in the assemblies by showing their work to the other children, and by raising issues that they have discussed in their classes. These assemblies provide an opportunity to reward children for their achievements both in and out of school. They also play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school, which is that all children are valued, and all achievements recognised. Children attend the same Superstars assembly as their buddy.
- 3.6** A group of pupils, known as Worship Warriors, is trained to plan and deliver Bible-rooted collective worship throughout the year.
- 3.7** **All** Y1-Y6 pupils are involved in planning and leading classroom-based collective worship with increasing independence and responsibility. This is organised in such a way that every child is involved once each school year. A photograph or video of this worship may feature on the class page of the school website.
- 3.8** The 2023-24 organisation of worship in school is thus:

Day	Time	Pupils	Lead
Monday	9.45-10.00	Reception	Vicar in class alternate weeks
	10.05am-10.20am	Y1-Y6	SC / Vicar alternate weeks or Open the Book Team some weeks, with Rec attending
Tuesday	10.00am-10.30am	Y1-Y6 (incl Rec from April) Singing Worship (rec singing worship in class with TAs at a time)	FG and CE SASWT some weeks

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		to suit)	
Wednesday	Y1-Y4	Classroom worship – individual classes Planning Cycle 4	Class teachers
	Y5-Y6 9.00-9.20	Y5-Y6 current affairs (Picture News)	Class teachers
Thursday	10.05am-10.20am	Y1-Y4 Bible stories (hall)	Superbook, class teachers on rotation or Y4 Worship Warriors, supported by JM
	Y5-Y6 9.00-9.20	Planning Cycle 4 (hall)	Class teachers on rotation
Friday Superstars Assembly	1.30pm and 2.00pm	One class per year group, with their buddy class.	FG/SC (TLR teacher on rota basis if SC/FG unavailable)

3.9 School worship also takes place in St Luke's Church. Each service takes place twice, in order to be able to welcome all parents and carers. Classes attend the same service as their buddy class and pupils walk to Church with their buddy.

Where a child is involved in the presentation of the service, we ensure that their siblings attend the same service, even if this means not going with their buddy on that occasion.

Celebration	Term	Led by	Congregation
Harvest	Autumn	Y3 pupils	RP, 1P, 2GN, 3R, 4C, 5H, 6H Parents and carers
			RI, 1F0'N, 2M, 3H, 4WM, 5W, 6G Parents and carers
St Luke's Day	Autumn	Vicar	RP, 1P, 2GN, 3R, 4C, 5H, 6H Parents and carers
			RI, 1F0'N, 2M, 3H, 4WM, 5W, 6G Parents and carers
Christmas	Autumn	Y6 pupils	RP, 1P, 2GN, 3R, 4C, 5H, 6H Parents and carers

			RI, 1F0'N, 2M, 3H, 4WM, 5W, 6G Parents and carers
Easter	Spring	Y4 pupils	RP, 1P, 2GN, 3R, 4C, 5H, 6H Parents and carers RI, 1F0'N, 2M, 3H, 4WM, 5W, 6G Parents and carers
Leavers' Service	Summer	Staff	RP, 1P, 2GN, 3R, 4C, 5H, 6H Parents and carers RI, 1F0'N, 2M, 3H, 4WM, 5W, 6G Parents and carers
Holy Communion	Summer	Vicar	Y6 pupils and staff

4 Right of withdrawal

4.1 We expect all children to attend worship. However, any parent can request permission for their child to be withdrawn from religious worship, and the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during that part of the assembly. Parents do not have to explain or give reasons for their request, but we ask that any such request is made in writing. This right of withdrawal complies with the 1944 Education Act, and was restated in the 1988 Education Reform Act.

4.2 Similarly, members of staff may withdraw from participating in or leading worship. However, it is an essential criterion that all staff recruited to school will have "*Sympathy with the Anglican Foundation of the school, with a commitment to maintain and develop strong links between the school and St Luke's church.*"

4.3 Class teachers keep a record of all children who have been withdrawn from collective worship and this is passed on to their new teacher annually.

5 Monitoring and review

5.1 Monitoring the policy and practice of collective worship is the role of the Headteacher and a named school governor: Rev Dr Matt Davis.

5.2 This policy will be reviewed annually.

Sharon Cowey
Headteacher

Summary of The Law

The current law is determined by the Education Reform Act 1988, with some requirements deriving from the Education Regulations 1981. In summary the law says this:

- All pupils must attend a daily act of collective worship, except for sixth formers who are allowed to decide for themselves whether to attend;
- The legal framework outlined here applies to maintained LA schools. In schools with a religious character collective worship is governed by the trust deed. Arrangements in free schools and academies is determined by the funding agreement.
- There is no need for an act of collective worship to include the whole school all at once. It may be through year groups, classes, key stages or in any combination.
- It may take place at any time during the school day and should normally be on school premises.
- It must be appropriate to the age, aptitude and family background of pupils.
- Responsibility lies with the head and governors, though the precise duties may vary according to the type of school.
- Details of arrangements for collective worship, including the policy, must be documented and available to the public.

Withdrawal of pupils

Parents have a statutory right to withdraw their children from collective worship. However, it is always good practice to arrange to discuss this with parents if a request emerges. There may be issues about a particular aspect of the programme which may be allayed after discussion. If the parent still feels they wish to withdraw their child, the request should be made in writing to the head teacher. This must be allowed by the school, which also needs to provide alternative activity and supervision for this pupil, although this must be at no additional cost to the school or local authority