



Collective Worship Policy – St Laurence’s CE Primary School

Growing in Faith, Living in Hope, Learning to Love.

At St Laurence’s, we aim to help our pupils, parents and carers and all members of the school community to grow, live and learn together. Following in the footsteps of St. Laurence, we aim to nurture a sense of understanding and compassion for all and build courage and strength to live by our Christian values.

Vision:

The vision of our academy is based on the Bible verse from 1 Corinthians 13:

- Is a diverse, supportive and nurturing part of the community.
- Enables active and creative thinking.
- Engages and challenges children in their learning.
- Inspires every child to achieve their highest potential.
- Has hope and excitement about the future.

Values:

- **Faith** – As a community of the Cross of Nails, we value the role faith plays in our life together. We welcome children and families of all faiths and none, whilst rooting our story and communal life together in our Christian values & collective worship. We encourage exploration and discovery of how faith helps us on our journey of living life to the full.
- **Hope** – We know that incredible things can happen when we believe in Children. We believe every member of our school family has the potential to thrive in life. That even when things go wrong, we can learn from our mistakes, and through forgiveness and reconciliation, live for a better future together.
- **Love** – We’re ambitious and do our best to succeed whilst we understand that our success comes not as individuals but from our shared ability to show and receive love and the encouragement of others. We care about living in healthy, inclusive relationships with each other, showing compassion to one another; modelled on the life and example of Jesus Christ.

Collective Worship at St Laurence’s

In accordance with the law for all schools and academies, at St Laurence’s, we hold acts of collective worship - which is of a broadly Christian character - reflecting the diverse traditions of Christian belief and marking the cycle of the church’s year. We do this together as a whole school and in class once a week, as a part of our classroom worship. We also visit St Laurence’s Church for worship led by Kate Pellereau.

We strive to ensure that our acts of worship are inspirational, invitational and inclusive for all members of our school community.

Parents have the right to withdraw their child from an act of collective worship but we would urge you to discuss this with the headteacher in the first instance.

Aims of Collective Worship:

- To foster a sense of personal 'worship' and collective fellowship, bringing the whole school community together.
- To explicitly link our vision and values to scripture and help staff and children grow on their own spiritual journeys as we focus on those values.
- To create an atmosphere of occasion and reverence where those who wish to worship feel supported and where others are brought into a meaningful encounter in a liminal space with something beyond themselves.
- To encourage in pupils a reflective approach to life.
- To introduce various aspects of religious worship to involve pupils and inspire everyone attending: prayer, singing, music, drama, silent reflection, art, poetry, story.

- To foster deepening understanding of theological concepts and the power symbolism and metaphor e.g. Trinity, Light, Bread et al.

- To provide opportunities to explore sensitively with pupils what is meaningful and significant to them in the face of life's mysteries, including the 'darker' side of life.
- To celebrate all that is good and lovely about life – especially our school community, our friends and families and the natural world
- To foster feelings of gratitude and courageous advocacy.
- To foster an understanding that faith transcends politics and geographical boundaries as we make meaningful links with Christians across our Diocese, our country and the world.

Organisation and Venue

Acts of worship are led by senior leaders, staff, children, clergy and invited visitors. Collective Worship is not RE, although they can and should complement each other. The dedicated time for Collective Worship is an integral part of our time in school every week.

Our week has two types of worship: whole school and class worship.

Whole school worship takes place in our hall which has many other functions throughout the school day. To create an atmosphere of 'special time and sacred space', we give careful attention to:

- having a worship table which has a cloth to match the colours of the liturgical year
- having a visual focus: candles, a cross, a plant, etc.
- having a Bible on display
- having carefully chosen music playing as we enter and leave the hall
- sometimes displaying a relevant picture, phrase or question on the screen to direct thinking and encourage reflection whilst waiting for worship to begin
- on occasions, having everyone entering and singing one of our well-known worship songs
- expecting that everyone (children and adults alike) enters the hall in an intentionally reflective manner.
- Minimizing interruptions from people walking through the hall during worship time.

This is also the guiding principles for teachers leading their own class worship. We have a structure to worship which is:

- Welcome and invitation to gather – candles
- Theme – Theologically rooted with reference to biblical text
- Links to the world today
- Opportunity for reflection
- Opportunity to pray

Worship themes are mapped out alongside the liturgical calendar, but the school responds to local and national focuses and issues where relevant. Worship in sequence includes opportunities for worship related to the schools Christian values. We work closely with St Laurence's church, to plan a thoughtful, reflective curriculum that encompasses our vision as a school and a community.

Our Weekly Worship

Opportunities to lead collective worship come through our Pupil Leadership Teams. Our ICONS Ambassadors support our collective worship at significant points in the school year. Occasionally our worship takes place in Church at times of major festivals in the Christian calendar - Harvest, Ash Wednesday, Ascension, Remembrance, Christmas, Easter and for our Leavers Service in July.

Our normal weekly pattern of worship is:

Day	Worship
Monday	Whole school collective worship led by a senior leader.
Tuesday	Whole school collective worship that focusses on a significant event happening in the world e.g. International Day of Peace.
Wednesday	Key Stage One or Key Stage two attend St Laurence's Church to be led in a service by Kate Pellereau.
Thursday	We come together as a school for a weekly celebration of our successes.
Friday	Class worship led by the teacher.

Arrangements for Recording, Monitoring and Evaluating Collective Worship

Each class will contribute to a collective worship floor book where collective worship is recorded. The recording focuses on children's reflections and can include: statements of reflection, prayer and links to everyday life.

Collective worship is monitored termly though an observation of worship and pupil voice. From this, recommendations are made on how to improve collective worship.