

# St Laurence Church of England Primary School

## Worship Policy

The school sees the time set aside for Collective Worship as being a time for sharing and togetherness; a sharing of knowledge, feelings and experience. It is seen as a time when we foster a sense of belonging to the school, to the wider community of Ludlow and to the society and world in which we live. It is a special act or occasion whose purpose is to show reverence to and love of God.

As a Church of England School we feel that we have a particular responsibility to nurture children's spiritual growth and for them to explore their relationship with God.

### **Statutory Requirements**

Collective Worship at St Laurence C E Primary School complies with the legal requirements set out in the 1988 Education Reform Act, which states that "Collective Worship must be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character which means that it reflects the broad traditions of Christian belief".

As a church school, our worship is wholly of a Christian character.

Provision is as follows:

- Monday: whole school, led by the headteacher with all staff attending.
- Tuesday: whole school, led by the headteacher with some staff attending .
- Wednesday: whole school, led by the headteacher with some staff attending.
- Thursday: whole school celebration and sharing, led by assistant headteachers with all staff attending.
- Friday: whole school led by clergy, ACTS2 or assistant headteacher with all staff attending

Christian worship. The school holds a service in St Laurence's Church for Harvest Festival, Christmas, Easter and Leavers each year. In addition, the School Council attend the Service of Remembrance representing the school.

In our assemblies a candle is lit with children made aware of its significance. The bible is on display, open and referred to. All children are taught the "Lord's Prayer", its meaning and are able to say it with confidence.

Education, celebration, praise and hope are essential features of our worship at St Laurence. We aim to make children aware of what it means to be a community committed to serving and caring for each other, God and our environment. In so doing we hope to create an atmosphere in which children are invited rather than compelled to explore issues for themselves, reflect upon and learn from their own and others' experiences, develop sensitivity and a sense of wonder, awe and mystery for the world of which they are part.

## **Equal Opportunities**

In sharing what is meaningful and significant in our lives, along with our common concerns, responsibilities and values, we affirm the equality of each individual, regardless of gender, creed, ethnicity, physical or mental ability.

## **Special Educational Needs**

The staff and governors at St Laurence are committed to ensuring that every child in the school will derive benefit from collective worship, whatever her or his ability. Every attempt is made, therefore, to ensure that materials used are appropriate to a range of abilities, aptitudes and interests.

## **Withdrawal of children**

We aim to ensure that collective worship is meaningful and relevant for all children and staff, for those with a faith background and those with none. Our school exerts no pressure on children to become worshipping Christians, or to participate actively in any activity that will compromise their own family faith or lack of faith. However, Christian values are built into our ethos and are reflected in the themes of our worship. Should parents wish to exercise their right to withdraw their child from collective worship, this is discussed with the headteacher. We aim to make all children and their parents feel that attendance does not compromise their own feelings and that collective worship is an important time when the school comes together as an "extended family".

## **In Conclusion**

At St Laurence we offer children opportunities to explore and share beliefs and consider the importance of prayer, meditation and silence. We encourage them to consider the relevance of ideas, beliefs and values to their own lives, to think about the needs of others and what it means to be part of a community. The opportunity is given to put into practice the values of the school. Collective worship offers a time to celebrate achievement and worthwhile or positive behaviour, thus building up our common life.