

St Laurence's Church of England Primary School



Collective Worship Policy

Ethos

At St. Laurence's CE Primary School we are committed to providing a rounded, connected and coherent education of the highest quality. We endeavour to preserve and develop our distinct religious character in accordance with the principles of the Church of England.

Our Christian vision states that we strive to reflect the love of God, the love of life and the love of learning together in all that we do. We persevere to live out our core Christian values – Trust, Wisdom and Creativity – in all that we do, alongside all those essential human values, which are common to good, kind and tolerant people of all faiths and none, through the experiences offered to all its pupils.

Rational

St Laurence's C of E Primary School is a Church of England Voluntary Controlled School and we aim that the collective worship reflects the Christian foundation of the school. Worship is therefore a special time of the school day, the purpose of which is to show reverence to God. It gives us the opportunity to come together as a school community to take part in spiritual contemplation, reflection and prayer. Although we base most of our daily gathering on the teachings of Christ and traditions of the Christian Church, we aim to conduct our collective worship in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs of all members of school and our wider community. All the children attend, and staff and any visitors in school are very welcome to join in, those with a religious faith or affiliation and those with none.

Collective Worship and the Law:

As a church school we fulfil the two legal requirements for Collective Worship:

- The legal requirement for Church schools ensures that every child in the school is entitled to an opportunity for daily worship. "The arrangements for the required collective worship may, in respect of each school day, provide for a single act of worship for all pupils or for separate acts of worship for pupils in different age groups or in different school groups." The School Standards and Framework Act 1998.
- All acts of worship at St Laurence's CE Primary School are in accordance with the school's Trust Deed and reflect the Anglican status of the school. In addition to daily school worship, special celebrations take place in Church.

The Planning of Collective Worship

Each half term, there is a theme for Collective Worship based on the Christian Values. Those leading worship are encouraged to relate their worship to this theme. The themes chosen are broad enough to allow all those leading worship to approach the theme from their own perspective. This will mean that by the end of the week the pupils will have had the opportunity to reflect on the theme from a variety of viewpoints. Alternatively class teachers may develop their worship from themes and events that occur on the curriculum during the week. This pattern is flexible and on occasions it is recognised that teachers may feel that they need to respond to local or national events.

Last Reviewed: May 2023

Next Review: May 2024

Our Worship Team is given the opportunity to plan and lead worship time and all children are encouraged to show what they have learnt about each Christian Value to others and sharing ideas that they have discussed in their classes.

Delivery of Collective Worship

Worship at St Laurence's CE Primary School is an uplifting and positive experience, celebrating all that is good and expressing thankfulness to and joy in God.

Collective Worship is provided and underpinned by the school's Christian ethos and Christian values. Collective Worship is given a special period in the school day:

- Monday 10:10-10:30: Whole School Collective Worship
- Tuesday 14:50-15:10: Worship through song
- Wednesday 10:10-10:30: Whole School Collective Worship; class-based worship or visitors. (If Class based, then the timings may alter, usually 9:15-9:45)
- Thursday 10.10 – 10.30: Whole School Collective Worship/Celebration Time.
- Friday 10.10 – 10.30: Departmental (Key Stage) Collective Worship /Open the Book (Acts 2)

Worship takes place in a variety of settings; for example - In the school hall, in a class, outside, in the local church. It is led by the head teacher, class teachers, the children, the local rector, governors and, on occasions, outside speakers. This brings greater variety to our assemblies and strengthens links between school and the local church. Parents are invited to assemblies and other special services e.g. at Christmas, Easter. These events are held in our local church, and are planned and led by the children. This promotes the community spirit of the school. We welcome governors' attendance at our assemblies at any time. Other opportunities for prayer and reflection are given at lunchtimes and in classes at the end of each school day.

We also hold Awards Assemblies that reflect the achievements and learning of the children. These assemblies offer an opportunity to acknowledge and reward children for their achievements both in and out of school. They play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school, which includes that all children are valued and all achievements recognised.

The school attends St Laurence's Church to celebrate significant times of the liturgical year. The pattern of worship reflects the broad spectrum of the Anglican tradition and Christian heritage. It allows the pupils to encounter some of the wide range of art, music and artefacts within the Christian tradition and offers opportunities for pupils' spiritual, moral, social, cultural and personal development.

We aim to provide pupils with an opportunity to worship God in an environment conducive to worship. It offers pupils opportunities to encounter the more challenging experiences of life and death and provide opportunities for the pupils to share and reflect upon things that are significant and meaningful to them. Each act of worship gives time for silent reflection and an exploration of inner space. The school hall has a 'sacred table' set aside with a bible and a candle as a vehicle for prayer and reflection, and a prayer board that holds the children's own written prayers.

We encourage pupils to voice their views on collective worship and to be a part of the evaluation process. Governors and all staff are part of the evaluation process to ensure that the standard of worship at St Laurence's school is of the highest quality.

Last Reviewed: May 2023

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Rights of Withdrawal

St Laurence's CE Primary School is an inclusive community; however we respect the right of parents to withdraw their children for Collective Worship. This school expects that withdrawal will only be made following parental discussion with the head teacher co-ordinator followed by written confirmation of withdrawal. The school has a system of suitable supervision for students withdrawn from Acts of Collective Worship. However, no additional work is set or followed in this time. All teachers in VC Schools, including the head teacher, have the right of withdrawal from the Act of Collective Worship, but the head teacher maintains statutory accountability for Acts of Collective Worship in St Laurence's CE Primary School.

Head teacher: S.Matthews

May 2023