



St Lawrence C.E. Primary School

Collective Worship Policy

2025

This policy has been developed in alignment with our Christian values, inspired by the Parable of the Good Samaritan, emphasising compassion, kindness and a commitment to help others.

Ethos

At St. Lawrence CE Primary School, we are committed to providing rich, rounded, connected and coherent education. 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 be like The Good Samaritan in all that we do and we aim to live out the values of The St Lawrence Way at all times:

Be responsible; Encourage others; Show respect; Try our best.

We believe that these values are common to good, kind and tolerant people of all faiths and those of no faith. Worship at St Lawrence's is intended to be an uplifting and positive experience, celebrating all that is good and expressing thankfulness to and joy in God.

Rationale

St. Lawrence C of E Primary School is a Church of England Voluntary Controlled School and we aim that our 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. Collective Worship 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 faiths and beliefs of all members of our school and our wider community. All of our school pupils attend Collective Worship and staff and any visitors in school are very welcome to join in - those with a religious faith or affiliation and those with none. Sometimes adaptations are made for pupils with SEND who might find it difficult to participate alongside the majority of pupils (e.g. observing a two-minute silence at school rather than at the town's war memorial).

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 Lawrence'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 St. Laurence's Church.

The Planning and Delivery of Collective Worship

Each week, there is a theme and a prayer for Collective Worship. Those leading sessions relate their worship to this theme. The themes for the academic year are planned in advance by our Worship Team. The plan is circulated to all teachers and is displayed in the school's main entrance foyer.

Collective Worship is given a special period in the school day:

Monday 10:15 - 10:30: Whole School Assembly with Rector/Church Team

Tuesday: Worship and Prayers in classrooms led by teachers

Wednesday 10:15 - 10:30: Whole School Assembly with Rector/Church Team

Thursday 10.15 - 10.30: Hymn Practice and Prayers

Friday 10:15 - 10:30: Celebration Assembly and Prayers

Special services take place in St Laurence's Church for Harvest, Christmas, Easter and at the end of the school year. Additionally, a Service of Remembrance takes place at the town's war memorial in November. Activities related to these services often take place beforehand, with church volunteers helping the children understand the significance of services within the liturgical calendar. Parents are invited to the services that take place in the church. We welcome governors' attendance for collective worship at any time.

Other opportunities for prayer and reflection are in classes, with every classroom having a 'Spiritual Space'. The children's own thoughts, prayers and spiritual experiences are often shared in the Celebration Assembly. Pupils who have shone in upholding the values of the St. Lawrence Way are rewarded with certificates and we have a special 'Good Samaritan Award' for those who have courageously helped others.

The pattern of collective worship at our school reflects the broad spectrum of Anglican traditions and Christian heritage. It allows pupils to encounter stories, art, music and artefacts and offers opportunities for spiritual, moral, social, cultural and personal development.

Worship sessions sometimes give pupils opportunities to encounter the more challenging concepts, such as life and death (at an age-appropriate level) and allows them to share and reflect upon things that are significant and meaningful in their own lives.

Each act of worship gives time for silent reflection and an exploration of inner space. We have a 'sacred table' set aside with a bible and a candle as a vehicle for prayer and reflection, and an olive tree that holds the children's own written thoughts and prayers. We encourage pupils to voice their views on collective worship (e.g. in School Council meetings or via Pupil Voice sessions) and to be a part of the evaluation process along with those of staff and governors.

Right of Withdrawal from Collective Worship

At St Lawrence CE Primary School there 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 headteacher, followed by written confirmation of withdrawal.