



All Saints Church of England Primary School, Carshalton

Policy for Collective Worship

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Agreed by staff – September 2003

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Reviewed – October 06, October 09, May 2011, May 2014

To be reviewed – Summer 2017

Introduction

The staff and the Governors at All Saints have agreed the following Mission Statement (Spring 2006) and review it on an annual basis.

“All Saints School seeks to provide a high standard of education within a Christian community where every person is valued as an individual”.

As a Church school we believe that the daily Act of Worship is at the core of our identity as a Christian Community; it is one of the means by which Christian values and principles may be reflected on and affirmed. In the daily Act of Worship we seek to provide an opportunity for the children to develop and express their spirituality and to be touched by a sense of awe and wonder.

We believe that worship should contribute to the children’s spiritual and moral development.

What do we mean by Collective Worship?

As a staff we have agreed the following understanding of the term Collective Worship;

- A collection of people who come together to worship and praise God.
- A group of people collected together in one single act of worship each day.
- The word collective emphasises the ‘collective’ nature of the school community.

Collective Worship is not Corporate Worship as this refers to a body of believers in a church or other place of worship.

School Assembly and Collective Worship

An assembly is quite separate to an Act of Worship. An assembly is an administrative activity e.g. a coming together to celebrate achievement. There should be distinct separation from the Act of Collective Worship and notices given out for general areas of school life.

What are our aims in an Act of Worship?

The following were discussed and agreed by staff:

- To affirm Christian values and attitudes;
- To deepen spiritual awareness;
- To reflect on the attributes of God
- To reflect on the teachings of Christ
- To foster respect and unity
- To celebrate special times in the Christian calendar
- To express praise and thanksgiving to God
- To share each other’s joys and challenges

What do our Acts of Worship make a contribution to?

- Anglican tradition through: Special services held in the church, attendance at cathedral services, regular leadership by clergy. The use of Anglican prayers, liturgy, songs; the importance of the bible.

- Pupils' spiritual development through: The opportunities for prayer and reflection and how these are developed through the school day and in class settings.
- The social and emotional aspects of learning (SEAL): Links are made between the social and emotional learning which takes place in lessons and worship and the Christian teachings and encouragement to faith that worship can provide to support it through the use of the SEAL Assembly materials.
- Social, moral, spiritual and cultural education, (SMSC): Opportunities are provided to learn and develop an understanding of each other's cultures, to hear about charity projects and overseas links, for pupils to lead and share with each other in expressing their spiritual lives and understanding.

The Programme of Themes

The themes are drawn up by the Collective Worship group on a termly basis. The themes relate to the church year, bible teaching, the school year, celebrations, festivals of faiths other than Christianity represented by pupils and programmes of study in RE.

Implementation

There will be time during each day for an act of Collective Worship.

Monday	An Act of Collective Worship for the whole school including all staff.
Tuesday	Separate Acts of Worship for all children and staff in the infants and juniors, one of which will be taken by the Rector of All Saints Church.
Wednesday	An Act of Collective Worship for the whole school, led by a member of staff, a visitor to the school or by the children.
Thursday	Separate Acts of Worship for all children and staff in the infants and juniors, one of which will be taken by the Rector of All Saints Church.
Friday	An Act of Collective Worship for the whole school followed by a celebration assembly.

Reception children join the main school Act of Collective Worship as soon as the class teacher feels they are ready, class based worship is more appropriate at the beginning of their time in school.

At present Acts of Worship are led by the Rector, Headteacher, members of staff, visitors from Sutton School's Christian Workers Trust and clergy from churches that the children attend.

Format for Acts of Worship

- Themes for the term will be set for each week to give meaning and continuity to Acts of Worship. All staff will be given a copy of the themes to follow.
- Appropriate music is played as the children enter and leave the Act of Collective Worship.

- A candle is lit at the beginning of each Act of Collective Worship and a special prayer is said.
- An appropriate hymn/song is sung at each Act of Collective Worship.
- Children sometimes lead our Act of Worship
- During an Act of Collective Worship children may read an appropriate text or contribute to prayer
- A Candle prayer and the Lord's Prayer are said at each Act of Collective Worship.
- Each Act of Collective Worship starts with the phrase:

“Leader In the Name of the Father, Son and Holy Ghost. “The Lord be with you”.
Reply: “And also with you”.

At the end, before notices, we say:
“Leader “Go in the peace of Christ”.
Reply “Thanks be to God”.

Special Services

In addition to the daily Acts of Collective Worship we also celebrate the main festivals of the Anglican Church; Harvest, All Saints Day, Christmas, Candlemas, Easter, Ash Wednesday, Ascension Day. These are marked by special services in school or in church. Each summer term, our Year 6 children attend the Leavers Service at Southwark Cathedral and the Rector conducts a Year 6 Eucharist in All Saints Church in the last week of the summer term.

Other opportunities for worship

At lunchtime a prayer is said in class by the children before they go out to break.

At the end of each day, each class says their own class prayer. This may be written by the class or chosen by the class teacher at the beginning of the year. Each class should have their class prayer displayed in an appropriate place in their classroom.

Equal Opportunities

Our school worship is about sharing what is meaningful and significant in our lives. It is about sharing our own concern and responsibilities and developing positive attitudes and values. It is about affirming the quality of each individual in God's sight whatever the individual's gender, ethnicity, physical or mental ability.

Right of withdrawal

We expect all children to attend Collective Worship. However, any parent can request permission for their child to be excused 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. This right of withdrawal complies with the 1944 Education Act, and was restated in the 1988 Education Reform Act.

The Headteacher keeps a record of all children who have been withdrawn from Collective Worship.

Monitoring and review

Monitoring the policy and practice of Collective Worship is the role of a named school governor, who is also responsible for religious education. The governor concerned liaises with the Headteacher before reporting to the governors.

This policy will be reviewed at least every three years.