



**All Saints C of E
Primary School**

**Worship
Policy**

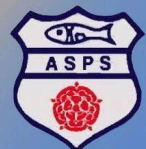
*'In God's hands,
we place ourselves
and with the strength He gives us,
we love, live and learn together.'*

*"We can do all things through Christ
who strengthens us"
Philippians 4:13*

Mission Statement

In God's hands we place ourselves
And with the strength He gives us
we love, live and learn together.
We can do all things
through Christ who strengthens us.

Philippians 4:13



With **FAITH**, we learn. With **LOVE**, we grow. With **HOPE**, we shine

In our school our Christian vision shapes all we do.

‘Collective Worship in a Church school should enable every child and adult to flourish and to live life in all its fullness. (John 10:10). It will help educate for wisdom, knowledge and skills, hope and aspiration, dignity and respect, and developing community and understanding of living well together.’

Policy Statement

In All Saints’ CE Primary Academy, worship is central to the life of the school and is the main platform for exploring the school’s vision. It is well planned and of high quality so that the whole school community is engaged on a journey of discovery, exploring the teachings of Jesus and the Bible.

For Christians in Church, worship is about honouring God and responding to the loving nature of God as revealed through the Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. A school is not a Church but is a collection of people who come from a variety of backgrounds for the purpose of education. The family backgrounds may be very different and collective worship must take account of the varied circumstances of staff and pupils.

At All Saints’ CE Primary Academy, collective worship aims to be inspirational, invitational and inclusive and will lead people to a threshold where they can witness worship and join in, if they wish.

Through Collective Worship pupils will be offered a space and a place for the telling of the Christian story. They will be offered an understanding of worship through being invited to participate in or observe prayer, reading and reflection on the Bible, liturgy, sacrament and experience of the musical and other imaginative riches of Christianity. Opportunities to reflect on the beauty, joy and pain of the world will be given. Pupils will be given time to consider their responsibilities to others and to grow in love and service. Time will be given for celebration, both for the accomplishments of school members and to mark the seasonal festivals of the Christian (*and other faiths*¹) calendar. Pupils will be offered time to be able to contemplate and develop spiritually.²

Church of England Guidance

Collective worship policy at All Saints’ CE Primary Academy, draws on guidance from the Church of England³. This guidance document has been produced to challenge, to guide and set expectations for Church school communities and diocesan authorities, encouraging them to reflect on their practice and to ensure that

¹ Collective Worship in a CofE school must be in alignment with the religious foundation of the school (Christian), however there is a responsibility for schools in all contexts to mark, respond and learn from the festivals of other faiths. This may be designated as a separate act, not to be conflated with collective worship.

² “To worship is to quicken the conscience by the holiness of God, to feed the mind with the truth of God, to purge the imagination by the beauty of God, to open the heart to the love of God and to devote the will to the purpose of God”. William Temple (1881-1894)

³ <https://www.churchofengland.org/about/education-and-schools/church-schools-and-academies/collective-worship>

collective worship remains the relevant and essential component of an education that enables all pupils to flourish.

Legal Requirements

There must be a daily act of collective worship in all maintained schools for all pupils, other than those in a nursery class or a nursery school. This can take place at any time in the school day and in any groupings. Collective worship in a Church of England School must be in accordance with the tenets and practices of the Church of England. In other words the law on collective worship that applies in a community school, “that it should be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character”, is not relevant. Worship in All Saints’ CE Primary Academy should be distinctly Christian and reflect Anglican traditions.

The governing board has the responsibility for ensuring that the school meets the requirements for worship detailed in the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Evaluation Document. They are also tasked with monitoring and evaluating the impact of worship on the school community in consultation with the headteacher.

The right of withdrawal

In All Saints’ CE Primary Academy, there are significant numbers of children whose families are members of another faith, or who hold a non- religious world view. Part of the distinctively Christian nature of Church of England Schools is that they should be as hospitable and inclusive to all in the community they serve. As collective worship occupies such a central place in the life of the Church school, this should be made clear on induction, and it is hoped that parents will be making a specific choice of the school knowing that the distinctive ethos will determine a Christian tradition within collective worship.

The 1944 and 1988 Education Acts state that parents have the right to withdraw children from collective worship and suitable arrangements should be made to accommodate these children.

On occasions, a parent may make a request for their child to be withdrawn from Collective Worship. There is an expectation that parents wishing to request a withdrawal will meet with the headteacher to discuss their concerns and requirements. It may be helpful to establish:

- The elements of worship in which the parent would object to the child taking part
- The other aspects of school life that are impacted by the Christian foundation of the school such as prayer and reflective areas
- The practical implications of withdrawal
- Whether the parent will require any advanced notice of such worship, and if so, how much

Where parents have withdrawn their children from collective worship and request religious worship according to their particular faith or denomination, the governors and head teacher will seek to respond positively to such requests providing:

- Such arrangements can be made at no additional cost to the school

- That the alternative provision would be consistent with the overall purposes of the school curriculum as set out in the Education Acts

If the Parent asks that a pupil should be wholly or partly excused from attending any religious worship at the school, then the school must comply.

(This means that a parent may, for example, request that their child does not take part in a carol service when otherwise the child takes part in daily collective worship.)

Guiding Principles

Collective worship in All Saints' CE Primary Academy aims to:

- Have a pivotal place in the life of the school.
- Support pupils and adults in their spiritual growth
- Be the central vehicle by which the school's vision is unpacked and explored so that the whole school community is challenged and engaged with the teachings of Jesus and the Bible.
- Provide an experience of worship that will offer opportunities for those present to observe and/or respond to the presence, power and peace of God as understood by Christians. This will always be invitational, offering an opportunity to take part whilst allowing the freedom for those of other faiths and none to be present with integrity.
- Support pupils in the development of their understanding of the Trinitarian nature of God in Christian belief
- Provide a variety of different opportunities for reflection, understanding of diverse liturgical traditions, participation, challenge and enjoyment where all present can be actively involved and develop their own spirituality whilst contributing to the communal journey.
- Help children to become familiar with Christian language and symbolism and the cycle of the Church year so that they are offered a pattern of meanings and a framework into which they can begin to integrate experience.
- Explore a variety of ways of praying, giving children the opportunity to form their own prayers using multi-sensory foci and introduce them to some well know Christian prayers, as well as a variety of prayers of thanksgiving before mealtimes and home time.
- Offer opportunities to all children and staff to develop their skills in planning, leading and evaluating the impact of school worship with the support and shared engagement of the local church community. Pupils will be at the centre of this process taking on increasingly independent roles in planning and leading worship.
- Ensure that materials and themes for worship are carefully selected to make sure pupils understand the work of Christians and the church locally, nationally and globally and how this reflects the teachings of the Bible and the example of Jesus.

Development of the policy and links to other policies and documentation

We ensure that the principles for collective worship are reflected and applied in our policies and practice including those that are concerned with:

- Pupils' personal development and wellbeing
- SMSC and PSHE
- Staff recruitment, retention and professional development
- Care, guidance and support
- Behaviour, discipline and exclusions
- Working in partnership with parents, carers and guardians
- Working with the wider community

We also ensure that information about collective worship is included on the school website.

How Collective worship is organised

Leadership

- We try to encourage a range of adults and pupils to lead worship, giving the children variety and enabling them to understand that worship can be led by anyone. Celebration Assembly at the start of the week is led by the headteacher with all staff present. Class teachers lead using Picture News on Tuesdays, alternate Wednesday worship is led by the vicar of All Saints' Church whilst the other Wednesdays, and Thursdays are led by school staff and/or groups of pupils. Fridays are for 'Praise and Prayers' led by our music subject lead.

On occasions, invited adults lead the worship, for example the Chair of Cidari or a Bishop or Archdeacon. We welcome such opportunities when they present themselves.

Planning

- Worship is planned in three separate terms largely by the three adults who lead each of our Heroes groups (see Appendix 1).
- Staff are recruited with the expectation that they feel able to lead worship. Training and support is provided as necessary. Children lead worship in groups supported as required by an adult when preparing the service in particular.
- Worship reflects the cycle of the Church year by ensuring termly plans incorporate all major Christian festivals.
- The Christian values of the school are identified, expressed and celebrated through collective worship; the three core values of faith, hope and love are a termly focus each with British Values, the Church of England values and other Christian values planned to ensure a thorough coverage over the year.
- Explicit links are made between Bible stories and the Christian values of the school
- A pattern for worship is used which reflects Anglican tradition; singing, prayer, Bible readings and reflection
- A range and variety of materials are used, including websites, artefacts, stories, drama scripts, artwork, music, songs, film clips, and focal points e.g. a picture or candle
- Opportunities are provided for children and adults to explore faith in today's world, especially through the Picture News sessions in class each week
- The Christian belief in the Trinitarian nature of God is explored both by the Vicar of All Saints' and in school worship as is age appropriate

- Spiritual growth through prayer, stillness and reflection is nurtured with opportunities in many worships for this to take place.

Organisation

- The termly plans are such that different groupings for worship including whole school, key stage and class worship all take place each week.
- Worship takes place in classrooms, the hall and the local church. The worship space is made special by insisting on children entering quietly, playing music as everyone comes in and leaves, and by lighting a candle.
- On the table, or altar, the children will see one or more of the following depending on the setting:
 - The liturgical colours of the seasons of the Church Year,
 - Christian signs and symbols such as candles, a cross or a focal point
- Worship is held at the start or end of the day with Tuesday Class Worship being decided by the class teacher to fit their timetable. All worships last for about twenty minutes.
- Children have a range of familiar ways to respond during the worship
 - The children are usually seated in rows in their class groups unless they are taking part when they usually sit at the front on benches.
 - The local church is used fortnightly and our outside areas (Sensory Garden and Forest) will be used more frequently over the next year. Our Remembrance Garden is used for the annual Armistice service for pupils in Nursery, up to Year 5 (Year 6 attend the local memorial with a wreath from school).

Roles and Responsibilities

It is the responsibility of each member of the school community to uphold the principles and actions of this policy:

- The governing board who focus on Church School distinctiveness at a meeting each term
- The headteacher and the senior leadership team who plan and evaluate the worship pattern
- Clergy and church partners who contribute to the planning and deliver some of the worship to fit in with the termly plan
- Teaching and support staff who lead, attend and participate in worships
- Pupils who must be respectful
- Parents and carers who are regularly invited in to join worships
- Visitors who are briefed before they lead a worship in school

Staff development and training

We ensure that all staff, including support staff, receive appropriate training and opportunities for professional development, both as individuals and as groups or teams.

Every year a member of staff from the Board of Education leads a training session. The most recent sessions were on Courageous Advocacy (2024), Spirituality (2025) and Equity, Diversity and Justice (2026).

The Headteacher and Deputy headteacher regularly attend training and network sessions with Blackburn Diocese. Staff support each other where necessary.

Monitoring and evaluation

- The practical strategies used to monitor and evaluate the impact of worship include observations by others which occur naturally as staff are present. The Senior Leadership team evaluate the clergy and provide feedback as required.
- Our Heroes groups which comprise children and a member of staff, evaluate both their own and others' worships.
- The monitoring and evaluation of worship has led to its strengthening and development over time; most recently, the Values programme has been overhauled to simplify it and make it easier for children to live out the values in their everyday lives.

Disseminating the policy

We ensure that this policy is known to all staff and governors, parents and carers and, as appropriate, to all pupils. This policy is available on our school website.

A range of other useful documents can be found on the Diocesan website www.bdeducation.org.uk

Date of last review: 1st September 2025

Date of Next Review: September 2027

Headteacher signed: Mrs J Dunn

Date: 1st September 2025

Chair of Governors signed: Mrs Rachel Edwards Barrott

Date: 1st September 2025

Appendix 1: long term plan

Worship/Values planning outline September 2025-26

Advocating change, making connections, developing faith.

God's Big Story to be reintroduced at the start of each school year.

<p><u>AUTUMN TERM</u></p> <p>Value: Faith</p> <p>Led by Faith Heroes and Mrs Bimson</p>	<p>Church of England's value: wisdom</p> <p>British values: respect and tolerance</p>	<p>Other Christian Values:</p> <p>Year 1: trust</p> <p>Year 2: thankfulness</p>	<p><u>Outcomes/events</u></p> <p>Harvest</p> <p>Remembrance</p> <p>Children in Need</p> <p>Posada</p> <p>Jesse Tree</p> <p>Advent foodbank</p> <p>Advent and Christmas</p>	<p><u>Outcomes/events in term other than the focus term</u></p> <p>Fairtrade Fortnight (September)</p> <p>Send Christmas cards to community groups, e.g. senior citizens, Little Saints.</p>
<p><u>SPRING TERM</u></p> <p>Value: Hope</p> <p>Led by World Heroes and Mrs Dunn</p>	<p>Church of England's values: hope and dignity</p> <p>British values: individual liberty</p>	<p>Other Christian Values:</p> <p>Year 1: perseverance</p> <p>Year 2: forgiveness</p>	<p><u>Outcomes/events</u></p> <p>Global Neighbours</p> <p>Fairtrade</p> <p>Ash Wednesday</p> <p>Lent</p> <p>Easter</p>	<p><u>Outcomes/events in term other than the focus term</u></p> <p>Easter egg raffle</p> <p>Send Easter cards to groups, e.g. senior citizens, governors and Little Saints</p>
<p><u>SUMMER TERM</u></p> <p>Value: Love</p> <p>Led by Community Heroes and Mr Roberts</p>	<p>Church of England's value: community</p> <p>British values: rule of law, democracy (within and out of school)</p>	<p>Other Christian Values:</p> <p>Year 1: compassion</p> <p>Year 2: service</p>	<p><u>Outcomes/events</u></p> <p>Pentecost</p> <p>Ascension</p> <p>Community groups, e.g. senior citizens, libraries,</p> <p>village duck race (choir)</p> <p>Local libraries</p> <p>Little Saints</p>	<p><u>Outcomes/events in term other than the focus term</u></p> <p>Christian Aid week</p> <p>Promote Fairtrade at the summer fair</p>

