



“Let your light shine before others”

Matthew 5 v 16

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

The following policy is reflective of our deeply held Christian Vision and Values and shapes all we do.

Vision

We are committed to creating a safe, happy and enriching environment where we all aspire to thrive, achieve and celebrate success together.

Our aim is to promote the dignity and well-being of every child and staff member and ensure they flourish in the course of their journey with us.

Values

Our core Christian values of Hope, Wisdom, Community and Joy underpin all that we strive to achieve to enable our ‘light to shine before others’ Matthew 5 v 16

1. Rationale

At Selwood Academy we believe Collective Worship should enable every child and adult to flourish and to live life in all its fullness. (John 10:10). It helps educate for wisdom, knowledge and skills, hope and aspiration, dignity and respect, and in developing community and understanding of living well together. Our daily collective worship time is central to the life of our school. We ensure it is well planned and of high quality so that the whole school community is engaged on a journey of discovery, it is one of the most important aspects of the school curriculum. It is when the school community, or part of it, meets together for reflection. Its potential to nurture a positive ethos that stresses Gospel values in action cannot be underestimated.

The aim of the collective worship policy is to provide the opportunity for pupils to:

- Worship God and reflect upon values that are based on Gospel Values
- Identify, affirm and celebrate those ideals and values held to be of importance in the worshipping community
- Develop a community spirit, a common ethos and shared values
- Consider spiritual and moral issues in response to the worship offered
- Be an important stimulus towards spiritual development

The Education Act requires all schools to hold an Act of Worship (of an essentially Christian nature) every day.

2. Aims

Collective worship will be of a predominantly Christian nature, reflecting the Academy's Anglican/Methodist foundation and the traditions of the Churches. Pupil's thoughts and understanding about social, cultural, moral and spiritual issues will be stimulated, encouraged and extended through a broad range of themes and variety of approaches.

Selwood's spirituality definition can be found in (appendix C), Themes (appendix D) these will be added to the calendar at the start of the year however to keep discussions and reflections taking place true to our

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world (both nationally and locally) sometimes the theme may change depending on what is currently happening in the world. If this does happen staff will be notified and planning provided.

Our 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 our 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 calendar. Pupils will be offered time to be able to contemplate and develop spiritually.

Collective Worship at Selwood 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 pupils 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 pupils 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.
- Offer opportunities to all pupils 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.

4. Objectives

- To take account of the religious provisions of the Trust Deed and other relevant legislation, and of worship guidelines provided by the Anglican and Methodist churches.
- Worship time should be a positive experience for both students and staff.
- To explore social, moral and spiritual values.
- To consider and celebrate the values of the Christian Gospels as well as an understanding of religious beliefs and practices.

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- To consider and celebrate the richness of Christianity, and of other faith traditions.
- To develop a sense of community.
- To affirm and develop the individual.
- To offer opportunities for reflection, meditation and prayer.
- To develop a sense of enquiry and to encourage a search for human meaning.
- To foster a sense of joy, awe and wonder in creation.
- To experience the sacred and to develop an awareness of the presence of God in others and in oneself.
- To appreciate symbolism and ritual as aspects of worship.
- To encourage an awareness of and a compassion for the needs of the world community.
- To maintain a biannual cycle of themes which can be developed in a predominantly Christian nature and provide opportunity for reflection.
- To recognise the contribution made by other religions and philosophical thinking to human experience.
- To organise a timetable so that daily collective worship can be conducted in combinations of Year Groups and Tutor Groups.
- To provide guidance on acts of worship in tutor groups.
- To encourage a variety of speakers from within the Academy and the local community to lead daily acts of worship and establish links with the wider community.
- To arrange a special act of collective worship at Harvest, Christmas and Easter and to use Churches in our local community to hold these special acts of worship.

4. Procedures and Practice

- The Headteacher will be responsible for quality assuring collective worship over the two-year cycle.
- A termly programme of themes and speakers will be published to staff.
- Daily acts of worship will be identified specifically on the timetable.
- A weekly structure will be sent to all staff so the worship time has maximum impact on our pupils and they can follow a journey through the week whilst having sufficient time to reflect and move their thought processes on the subject forwards (appendix A)
- Pastoral team leaders and the senior leadership team will supervise the entry to and exit from acts of collective worship in the Main Hall and Block Hall. This includes ensuring an appropriate atmosphere is set to allow maximum reflection time for the pupils e.g. playing music as pupils enter and exit the hall.
- Guidance and CPD is given to staff on delivering worship time.
- Tutors will implement the guidance on acts of worship when in tutor groups (appendix B)
- To support tutors with this task the liturgical theme of the week will be sent out with the weekly bulletin and resources made available for teachers on the Academy's computer system.
- Worship time should be planned in advance, just as all other curriculum experiences should be. Sessions should be engaging and resources should be carefully thought through to stimulate the minds of the pupils and support positive behaviour.
- Those leading assemblies can seek the advice and support of the school's senior leadership team, especially where there is any concern regarding a specific aspect of the liturgical calendar themes.
- In liaison with the Senior Leadership Team, the Faculty Head of Religion and Philosophy will oversee the organisation of special services when they are arranged.
- In addition to daily collective worship, opportunities for collective worship exist at Selwood Academy through: Welcome Services, End of term celebrations, Harvest, Christmas and Easter events.
- Requests to withdraw from collective worship should be made in writing to the Headteacher.
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. Collective worship occupies such a central place in the life of our Church school, 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, however we are an inclusive school to the whole community and understand there may be elements that a parent or carer may want to withdraw their child from.

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5. Monitoring, Evaluation and Review

Monitoring will take place to ensure our worship time is implemented to a high standard, through pupil questionnaires and Quality Assurance sessions led by Senior Leaders.

The Senior Leadership Team and Link Trustee will review this policy bi-annually and assess its implementation and effectiveness.

Luci Hooper (SIAMS Leader) on behalf of the SLT will report formally, on a termly basis, to the full Trustee board meeting.

The Headteacher in conjunction with the SIAMS Leader, SLT and Head of Religion and Philosophy will undertake an annual review of its SIAMS SEF which informs the School Development Plan. Issues relating to collective worship will be included in this process.

6. 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.

7. Disseminating the policy

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

8. Links to other Policies

Spirituality Policy

Religion and Philosophy Policy

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 PASHE
- 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.

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APPENDIX A

MAIN HALL WORSHIP

Weekly structure of Main Hall worship

Monday's Act of Worship to Years 5 and 7 is repeated on Tuesday to Years 6 and 8 and is an introduction and discussion around the theme for that week, please link to a bible story and end with a prayer or short time of silent reflection (planning support P Drive – Church School)

NB – Please share the bible story you are referencing with the person leading Wednesday and Thursday's Act of Worship.

Wednesday's Act of Worship to Year 5 and 6 is repeated on Thursday to Years 7 and 8. This again includes a discussion around the theme but will extend on from the bible story and look at how we can learn from the story and include our thoughts surrounding this and how it fits into our everyday lives at home and at Selwood School. Again, the assembly will finish with a prayer or short time for reflection (planning support on P Drive – Church School)

Each day a different Head of Year will be responsible for arranging background music as the pupils enter and exit the hall to set an appropriate atmosphere.

Main Hall Worship – Wellbeing Ambassador opening and closing script

Welcome to today's main hall assembly. We will start with our opening reflection: In this school, our one main spiritual rule is to let your light shine before others each day. So what is your light? How does it shine bright? How do you make sure it's not hidden away?

Wisdom is grown, when light shines on mistakes and is shown. How have you learnt from any mistakes made today? (Holds, then lights candle, places on table.)

Community can be like the sun, when together each person's light is made one. How have you helped others today? (Holds, then lights candle, places on table.)

Joy sparkles bright, like shooting stars in the night. How have you brought joy to someone today? (Holds, then lights candle, places on table.)

Hope is a flame, in a dark place of pain. How have you given hope to someone today? (Holds then lights candle, places on table.)

At the end of the Worship.

After the main prayer the ambassadors say Amen and extinguish the candles.

APPENDIX B

ACTS OF WORSHIP IN TUTOR GROUPS

Guidelines for Tutors

What each Class Worship must contain:

Class Worship Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday:

- Each Class Worship must **link to the theme of the week**.
- New resources have been created by pupils. You can apply any of the themes to the PPTS.
- Each Class Worship must **end with a prayer**. This has been included by the pupils on their PPTS.
- Each Class Worship must contain **a reference to a bible quote**.

Class Worship Thursday or Friday:

- Every **Thursday or Friday, each tutor group will do the 'Thoughtful Thursday', or 'Reflective Friday' ppt.**

Areas of flexibility:

- The Class Worship can last between **10-20 minutes**.
- If your tutor group are part of a **whole-school service this term**, e.g. Welcome Service, Harvest, Christmas, Easter or Leaver's Service, you can use the Class Worship time to work on this.
- There will be **special occasions** when Class Worship will be different e.g. World Mental Health Day. One-off resources will be provided for this.

As with all lessons please have High Expectations of behaviour during worship time and follow the school policy if pupils are not engaged or listening and respecting others.

Additional notes:

- The theme of Class Worship may change dependent on local and national issues.
- There will also be occasions when tutoring issues arise which need to be dealt with. It is suggested these matters are dealt with at the end of class worship time. You may incorporate the discussion into the worship time if this is appropriate.
- An act of worship should include some aspect of worship which could be a prayer or a time of quiet reflection. You may like to use a focus for this such as the lighting of a candle, showing an artefact or picture or playing music.
- All resources and bible references are saved on the P Drive.

APPENDIX C

Spirituality Definition

Spirituality at Selwood is when we [Look in](#), [Look out](#) and [Look up](#).

*By **looking in**, **looking out** and **looking up** we can grow in confidence and reach higher levels of personal success... in all areas of our lives. By **looking in**, **looking out** and **looking up** we can truly be the best version of ourselves and let our light shine before others.*

LOOKING IN

This involves finding out how we feel about ourselves. Are we confident, self-assured, empowered, and ready to tackle the world? Or are we undeserving, ill-equipped, and insufficient?

To look inside means to discover your beliefs, your thoughts, and your feelings about something. To look inside means you will discover and acknowledge how you want to be treated, how you want people to see you, and how you want to treat others.

How we feel about ourselves plays a critical role in our overall success, and negative feelings can cause us to sell ourselves short and impede our ability to reach our highest potential.

LOOKING OUT

This involves thinking about the influences around us and the community around us. We may use the time to think about how we serve our community and whether we can proactively support our local and global community? How may we enable our community to thrive and can we have a positive impact on everyone who lives in our world.

LOOKING UP

Spirituality includes a sense of connection to something bigger than ourselves, and it typically involves a search for meaning in life. As such, it is a universal human experience — something that touches us all.

Looking up can often involve asking big and philosophical questions.

APPENDIX D

ACTS OF WORSHIP THEMES

Achievements	Action	Acceptance	Advent
Anger / Hate	Ambitions	Advent	Acceptance
Adventure	Authority	Advice	Awe
Awe / Wonder	Autumn	Body Language	Caring
Beauty	Beliefs	Bullying /peer pressure	Celebration
Beginnings	Bravery	Charity	Christmas
Bible	Christmas	Choices	Communication
Character	Creativity	Christmas	Community
Christmas	Conscience	Compromise	Conservation
Confidence	Darkness	Commitment	Co-operation
Consideration	Disappointment	Decision making	Courage
Curiosity	Duty	Easter / Holy Week	Creation
Difficulties	Easter / Holy Week	Failure	Easter / Holy Week
Discovery	Family	Faith	Endurance
Dreams	Giving	Fun	Empathy
Earth	Generosity	Gossip / Rumour	Envy
Easter / Holy Week	Honesty	Hope	Failing well
Enjoyment	Innocence	Humility	Family
Enthusiasm / Purpose	Journeys	Intelligence	Forgiving
Environment	Joy	Limits	Healing
Examples	Leisure	Manners	Helping
Friendship	Love	Motivation	Hope
Forgiveness	Mistakes	Pride	Individuality
Fears	Motives	Punctuality	Kindness
Faith	Mystery	Reciprocity	Koinonia
Harvest	Music	Recognition	Light
Health	Need	Reconciliation	Love
Helping	Peace	Reflection	Loyalty
Honour	Pleasure	Reliability	Partnerships
Imagination	Praise	Reputations	Peace
Individuality	Prejudice	Resourcefulness	Positivity
Influence	Pride	Resilience	Reciprocity
Justice	Priorities	Responsibility	Recognition
Knowledge	Recreation	Risk taking	Reflection
Leadership	Rest	Self-belief	Renewal
Lent	Relationships	Serving others	Reciprocity
Light	Respect	Success	Recognition
Listening	Right and Wrong	Talents	Resourcefulness
Living world	Remembrance	Temptation	Resilience
Loyalty	Safety	Thanksgiving	Risk taking
New Year	Self-care	Tolerance	Resilience

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Outreach	Serving others	Union	Reverence
Opportunities	Silence	Working together	Rules
Praise Prayer	Success	Whitsun	Silence
Prepared Patience	Suffering	Willpower	Thank fullness
Perseverance	Summer	Worry	Trust
Sacrifice	Talents	Worship	Wonder
Saints	Teamwork		Values
Self-discipline	Temptation		
Self-esteem	Thanksgiving		
Sharing	Time		
Truth	Tolerance		
Unselfishness	Traditions		
Winter			

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