

St Saviour's C of E Academy

Worship Policy

Autumn 2021

At St Saviours C of E Academy, Worship is viewed as an integral part of school life. Through our school values of 'Respect, Forgiveness, Aspiration, Honesty, Friendship and Perseverance' and in the general ethos of the school we seek to promote our motto;

'Believe, Grow, Achieve with Christ'

Collective Worship gives us the opportunity to come together as a community. It is attended and led by the children and staff. We also invite any visitors to the school to join us.

At St Saviour's C of E Academy, we also recognise that Collective Worship is an important opportunity to embed children's Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development.

Christian Values

We identify the values of *Friendship, Honesty, Respect, Perseverance, Forgiveness and Aspiration*.

These values are embodied in the New Commandment that Jesus gave us:

John 13:34-35 "...love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another, then everyone will know that you are my disciples".

We also actively seek to encourage the attitudes of awe, wonder and reflection.

Values Education

We blend Christian teaching and Values Education in order to create opportunities for children to develop physically, emotionally, personally, socially, mentally and intelligently so that their self-esteem and well-being is sound and supported by ever growing emotional intelligence; leading to an understanding of their rights and responsibilities as young citizens.

Aims

It is our aim at St Saviours C of E Academy that worship should: -

- Take the opportunity to ask God to bless the whole school, as we ensure that every child is special in His care, and thank Him.
- Contribute to the spiritual, social, moral and cultural development of each child.
- Give expression to, and reaffirm and practise the values of the school community.
- Allow reflection and response to the fundamental big questions of life and those things that are of eternal concern and value to human beings.
- Celebrate and give thanks for the achievements within the school, local and international community and occasions of significance, including festivals.
- Foster and enable a concern for the needs of others, a recognition of the vulnerability of self and of others.
- Provide members of the school community with the opportunity to praise and reach out to God.
- Provide members of the school community with the opportunity to experience stillness and quiet.
- Provide members of the school community with the opportunity to respond to Christian language and symbolism.
- Provide members of the school community with the opportunity to experience a variety of forms of prayer and meditation. These might include praise, seeking forgiveness, asking on behalf of self and others or quiet reflection.
- To help students to begin to understand the nature and purpose of worship.
- Provide a foundation for a mature understanding and practice of worship in the future.

Legal Status of Collective Worship

The 1988 Education Reform Act requires that 'all pupils in attendance at a maintained school shall on each day take part in an act of Collective Worship'. We seek to do our best to keep the spirit of this legislation seeking to provide as many high quality acts of worship as is practically possible.

To provide students with variety in their experience of worship acts of worship may take the form of a whole school act of worship for all pupils or separate acts of worship for students in different age groups or school groups. Collective Worship may be held at any time during the school day.

The responsibility for arranging school worship in our school rests with the Principal.

All acts of worship are in accordance with the guidance issued in circular 1/94 which states that worship should be of a 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character' and not distinctive of any particular Christian denomination. By broadly Christian in this school we mean that: -

- Worship contains some elements that accord special status to Jesus, his teachings and actions, e.g. The Sermon on the Mount.
- Sharing with students the Christian belief that all Christians are called to continue Jesus' work of love and compassion for their fellow human beings through the exploration of key Christian concepts such as Love, trust, forgiveness, mercy, humility, courage and integrity, respect for life, value of an individual, justice, co-operation and service, honesty and truthfulness.

Acts of Collective Worship at St Saviours Academy take into account the student's ages, aptitudes and family backgrounds.

The school recognises that there is a difference between Acts of Collective Worship and the assembly of students. On some occasions assembly may proceed or follow an Act of Collective Worship. When this happens the transition from Assembly to worship will be marked by the lighting of a candle and reflecting an image on the whiteboard, moment of silences and reflection.

Rights of Withdrawal

At St Saviour's we seek to be an inclusive community however we respect the right of parents to withdraw their children from Collective Worship. This school expects that withdrawal will only be made following parental discussion with the principal followed by a written confirmation of withdrawal.

Planning, Recording and Evaluation

Collective worship will be treated like any other part of the curriculum when it comes to matters of planning, delivery, resourcing and evaluation. The content and methodology of Collective Worship should be varied and there should be evidence of this in planning. Each term there is a theme for Collective worship based on the school values. These are published at the beginning of the term. Those leading worship that week are encouraged to relate their worship to this theme. Each person leading worship is asked to plan his or her act of worship in as much detail as they would any learning activity.

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 term the students 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.

Organisation

We aim to provide a variety of worship experiences for the children. Our current schedule is as follows:

Monday	Whole school worship led by the Rev. Iain Baker
Tuesday	Key Stage worship
Wednesday	Class worship
Thursday	Singing worship
Friday	Celebration worship

We aim to include the children in the planning and delivery of our Collective Worship, wherever possible.

Other Faiths

At St Saviour's C of E Academy, our worship reflects our Christian beliefs and values and we are also committed to respecting each other's faith stance and culture, showing tolerance and understanding regardless of pupils' beliefs. The class led acts of worship may portray other cultures and beliefs as they reflect the RE studied as part of the curriculum requirements.

Record Keeping, Evaluation and Monitoring

Each class has their own worship book that can be found on the prayer focus in each classroom. These contain evidence of the children's work, thoughts and reflections. A file is kept on the school staff shared area, recording details of each act of worship. Training is encouraged and available for those who wish to lead acts of worship.

Written Summer 2020

Review Summer 2023

Principal

Signed

Chair of Governors

Signed