ALL SAINTS CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

'Playing our part in God's plan as we journey together to achieve the best for ourselves and others'

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

This Policy is a statement of the aims, principles and strategies for promoting effective worship at All Saints Church of England Primary School. The ethos of the school is based on the Christian belief of caring for one another as children of God. We accompany each child as they develop and learn at a pastoral level, educate them in certain values at an emotional level, excite and inspire them at an intellectual level and foster their capacity to grow at a religious level.

At All Saints Church of England Primary School, we are committed to creating an inclusive and welcoming community that recognises, respects and celebrates both our commonality and our differences. Our Christian values of Love, Hope and Community underpin all that we do, helping to create a culture in which everyone feels valued, respected and that they belong. Together, we seek to enable every member of our school community to flourish.

RATIONALE

As a Church of England school, worship will reflect some of the rich traditions of Anglican prayer and worship. When planning worship, it is necessary to include aspects of this tradition so that pupils' growing maturity contributes to a broadening and deepening of their spiritual experience and understanding. Collective worship is an integral part of the life of the school community. In providing a daily act of worship we are conforming with the law and our trust deed. In the first place Collective Worship gives expression to and the opportunity to reflect on certain values and experiences. These values and experiences are a way of demonstrating Christian spirituality. These are: wonder and awe; joy; paying attention and listening; humility; interiority and stillness; silence; trust; selflessness; peace and harmony with others; communion with God and others; perseverance; healing and wholeness; gratefulness; kindness, compassion and empathy for others and the experience of God's unconditional love for each person.

In Collective Worship we seek to:

- Reflect and build on the understanding of our vision and values of Love, Hope and Community
- Allow time for reflection and stillness, and provide an opportunity for prayer
- Create opportunities for spiritual reflection
- Reflect on the life of Jesus Christ and of the understanding of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit
- Mark and celebrate the school's special occasions and achievements
- Develop a feeling of community and a sense of belonging and sharing
- Consider moral values
- Encourage compassion and sensitivity and the recognition of human endeavour
- Encourage the children to learn how to take part in both large and small gatherings
- Offer opportunities to perform and to respond to a presentation of readings, music, art, dance, drama or prayer
- Include common responses to join up our experiences

AIMS:

- to develop an understanding in every child that God is always available to them
- to provide opportunities for the pupils to develop their religious experience, thinking and commitment within the context of the traditions of the Church of England and the world-wide Anglican Communion
- to enable children to experience different forms of communal and personal prayer
- to develop an understanding of Christianity, value the integrity of other religions and the place of religious life in our world and lives
- to allow time to celebrate and mark special occasions, seasons and particular services (Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter, Ascension, Pentecost, Transfiguration, Christ the King and the lives of the saints) in the Church's year
- to enable the children to recognise and appreciate the values characteristic to Christianity; for example, honesty, integrity, faithfulness, compassion, generosity, courage, responsibilities, service and love and the example set by Jesus Christ
- to provide opportunities to share time, space, joy and the peace needed to reflect, learn and develop emotionally and spiritually
- to find expression in the values and talents that are displayed by the whole school community both within its life and academic curriculum and in our service to the wider community
- to raise awareness and promote the understanding that we live our lives in the context of our family, our local community and within the interrelatedness of the global community
- to be inclusive and foster a sense of community and unity in the school
- to inspire a love of lifelong learning
- to equip our children with the skills and tools to become global citizens
- to equip our children to deal with change
- to respect the individuality of each child, their religious heritage as well as the ethnic, religious and social diversity of the school community
- to be aware and acknowledge festivals of major world religions

As a Church of England School our aims will be achieved by:

- Using the Bible as a source book for inspiration and learning
- Reflecting upon Christian symbols and their use in worship
- Observing the cycle of the Christian Church: Advent, Christmas, Lent, Pentecost, together with holy days
- Participating in the regularity and set order of Anglican worship. There will be special services in the Parish Church e.g. Harvest Festival, Christmas, Ash Wednesday, acknowledging the departure of older pupils
- Providing opportunities for meditation and silence within the context of Christian worship
- Recognising that the Anglican Church has a strong commitment to ecumenism that may be expressed when members of other Churches are invited to lead worship
- Experiencing the bond of community that encompasses gender, age, race, and religious opinions

Organisation:

Collective worship takes place daily, both as a school and as classes based on a common theme. Each Monday, the school takes part in a whole school Collective Worship led by the Headteacher and we come together again on a Friday for Celebration Worship led by the Headteacher and Pupils. Our vicar, Reverend Chris Curry, leads Collective Worship each week on a Thursday. We have Bible stories and sharing worships throughout the term, as welcoming other leaders in to share in worship.
The act of worship lasts for last for approximately 15- 20 minutes. The singing of hymns and songs provides a valuable opportunity to share celebration or reflection.

Songs and hymns are practised each week. We gather to celebrate ~~both~~ being together as a ~~Christian~~ school community. From our daily acts of worship, we reflect collectively, as a class and individually, on the mystery and wonder of the world in which we live and our part in it. Worship is of a Christian character although we may draw upon the insights of other world religions and make common connections with Christianity. We use stories, poetry, legends and fables, world events and real-life stories to help us to reflect and explore our ethos. We may also use music, art and photographs to illustrate difficult concepts in ways in which words cannot. A few minutes will be given for all to consider silently the message of worship that day and a prayer will be shared. A particular theme may be integrated into the curriculum as a whole. We may also make visits to our local church for worship and we welcome in visitors such as the local community church members which allows children the experience of learning about stories from the Bible in a fun, drama-based way. We have pupil worship leaders who help lead the act of worship, including lighting of our candles.

Spiritual opportunities through Collective Worship

"We touch on spirituality when we encounter an experience on life's journey that causes us to reflect on the deeper things in life, its meaning, and our purpose within it, and as a consequence our lives are transformed." Jon Westwood

Spirituality is how we understand ourselves and our place in the world; it is a connection to something that is bigger than ourselves. It is about awe and wonder, asking 'big' questions and being inspired to look beyond ourselves and serve and care for others and the world around us. At All Saints, we use the four spiritual moments – Mirror, Door, Window and Candle moments – as a means of having time to stop and consider those 'deeper' questions both in Collective Worship and throughout the school day.

Consultation

We believe it is important to consult all involved:
Staff, children, Governors, Clergy.

Curricular Links

Acts of worship at All Saints will be educational in approach and take account of age and aptitude of pupils.

Curriculum Time

The Act of Worship is not designated as curriculum time and will not be subsumed into any part of the curriculum.

Evaluation

It is important to evaluate the quality of Acts of Worship. This will be done by the Headteacher in conjunction with the Governor responsible for Collective Worship using the Observation Framework and Guidance for Observation of Acts of Worship. Pupils will also be given time to reflect and evaluate the impact of Collective Worship within school through our Worship 'Reflection' Groups.

Withdrawal

The right to withdraw pupils from collective worship is available to all parents. If parents decide to take this option for their children, we will ensure that pupils are adequately supervised, with something purposeful to do. We will also ensure that pupils are not made to feel isolated or 'different'.
Teachers are required to take and attend assemblies as part of their conditions of service. They take responsibility in particular for modelling the ethos of the school to the children. In terms of their contracts, however, they are not obliged to attend or participate in acts of worship. In the unlikely event of a teacher wishing to withdraw from this part of school life it must discussed with the Headteacher.

Policy agreed:	November 2026
To be reviewed:	November 2027