

St Luke's Policy for Collective Worship

Policy for Collective Worship
Main Governing Body
Reviewed: Autumn 2019
For Review: Autumn 2022

'The impact of collective worship on the school community is outstanding'

'The varied worship programme has a high profile and contributes effectively to conveying the school's Christian foundation and developing its ethos, virtues and values.'

SIAMS report, December 2017

Mission Statement

The staff and governors are dedicated to:-

- *Educate pupils intellectually, socially, morally, aesthetically, physically and spiritually within a school firmly based on Christian principles.*
- *Enable pupils to grow in each of these areas and achieve fullness of life through discovering and developing their talents and by putting before them positive and realistic goals.*
- *Promote Christian values within the school as exemplified by the life and teaching of Jesus Christ and to encourage in pupils a sense of decency, commitment, self-reliance, responsibility, respect for others and a healthy self-esteem.*
- *Value the beliefs and traditions of other faiths.*
- *Ensure that the curriculum provides a Christian setting in which children can grow in understanding and the acquisition of skills, attitudes and values.*

At St Luke's C.E. Primary School, we believe that Collective Worship plays a very important role in the life of the school. It is an opportunity to promote the Christian foundation of our school, to celebrate and support all aspects of school life and to provide time for stillness and reflection in what is often a very busy, active day for our children. We recognise that in our school we have children from a variety of faith traditions, including those who have no faith background at all. Great care and sensitivity will be taken to ensure that all our children feel valued and special.

Aims for Collective Worship

Our school worship contributes to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of our pupils, as appropriate to their ages and aptitudes. For example,

- To help pupils' **spiritual** development by teaching them about God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit and giving them the opportunity to worship him together. Worship also enables the pupils to hear about him from the Bible, to develop their relationship with him through prayer, and to reflect on themselves and his world.
- To help pupils' **moral** development by taking time to be aware of different life values, while developing a common ethos and shared values based on Christian standards.
- To promote pupils' **social** development by helping them feel part of the community, and reinforcing positive attitudes. Our worship will encourage participation and response, whether through active involvement in the presentation of worship or through listening to and joining in the worship offered.
- To help pupils' **cultural** development by drawing on the Christian heritage – both through the Bible and other key writings, and through religious festivals and practices.

Elements of Worship

Collective worship should represent good practice within the school. To create a “unique experience” we need to consider the use of:

- Song (accompanied or unaccompanied)
- Songs and music from a variety of cultures
- Readings (from sacred or other writings)
- Reference to Character Virtues
- Defined order and free expression
- Reflection and contemplation
- Individual and group activity
- Formal and informal seating
- Special clothing, artefacts
- Discussion, speech and silence
- Dance and drama
- Eyes open and eyes closed
- Food and drink
- Artistic imagery
- Prayer spoken or silent
- Meditation and contemplation
- Reflection

Organisation

Collective worship takes place at St Luke’s every day, mainly in the school hall. There are times, however, when collective worship takes place in the classroom or at Church. The pattern of collective worship should generally be as follows:-

Monday	Whole school worship and celebration assembly led by Headteacher / Deputy HT
Tuesday	Whole school hymn practice with prayer / reflection time
Wednesday	Whole school worship led by school staff
Thursday	Whole school worship led by clergy
Friday	Whole school worship led by Open the Book (Bible stories)

Every class has two Class Assemblies planned during the academic year, which contains prayer / reflection time, taking the place of a worship listed above. In addition, visitors are booked each term to lead whole school worship from Christian groups, for example Insight.

The act of Collective Worship is carefully organised and planned by the Collective Worship Co-ordinator. The involvement of pupils, staff and visiting speakers is important and provides a sense of occasion, which can then lead to a real learning experience for all.

Special Services and Church Links

The school values both its special links with St Luke’s Church and the Parish and also its contacts with ministers of other Christian traditions. The clergy holds weekly assemblies in the school and there are regular school services held in St Luke’s Church. The dates and content of the Church services are often planned to mark Christian festivals, or significant school occasions. The planning and leadership is shared by the clergy, staff and sometimes the pupils. Parents and friends are warmly invited to all Church services.

Inclusion and Withdrawal

Parents have a right to withdraw their children from religious education and collective worship as identified in the education Act 1944. As a Church of England school the worship at St Luke's will be consistent with the faith and practice of the Church of England and may be held at St Luke's Church. Before reaching a decision to withdraw their child, however, parents are encouraged to discuss the issues fully with the Headteacher.

Monitoring

Observing the cycle of the Church's year, themes are planned on a termly basis by the LMT taking into account the RE guidelines of the Diocese of Southwark. A selection of Acts of Worship are evaluated by staff, clergy and children regularly. Monitoring of Worship is the responsibility of the Headteacher. This is achieved through regular meetings with the RE governor and LMT, along with evaluations of collective worship by all members of the school community, including children.

Autumn 2019