



All Saints' CE(VC) First School, Denstone  
"Alte Volo" - Aim High

# Collective Worship Policy

Agreed - December 2016  
To be reviewed - Spring 2018

## Policy Statement

At All Saints' First School, the daily act of collective worship is viewed as an integral and important part of school life.

Through this and in the general ethos of the school we seek to promote our school values.

Our core Christian values are:

*Love, Respect and Kindness*

It is a time where we come together to share a love of God and celebrate our achievements (and sometimes failures) together. The worship of the school is based on promoting the Christian values which permeate the ethos of the school. As such, the contributions of staff, pupils, church clergy and other visitors are valued highly.

## Christian Values

We identify the values of Love, Respect and Kindness. We have a display based on these values as you enter school. 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.

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. The systematic introduction of a common values vocabulary allows children to access moral and ethical thought.

### Legal Requirements

We acknowledge the legal requirement stated in the 1988 Education Reform Act 6 (1) and 9 (3), which states the need for each child to attend a daily act of worship either as a whole school, class or group. Parents have the legal right, following discussion with the head teacher, to withdraw their children from the act of worship either partially or wholly. Teachers also have the right to withdraw from leading and taking part in worship.

### Organisation

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

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|-----------|--|
| Monday    | Whole school worship and hymn singing led by Mrs Manby.  |
| Tuesday   | Whole school worship followed by hymn singing. This is led by Mrs Tomlinson.                         |
| Wednesday | Whole school worship followed by hymn singing. This is led by Mrs Thomson.                           |
| Thursday  | Whole school worship led by Mrs Swift and once each half term by Father John.                        |
| Friday    | Celebration Worship led by our Deputy Head teacher. Pupil led worship happens twice every half term. |

Once every half term, a group of children meet with a member of the governing body to discuss worship, in particular, the impact of collective worship on the children. In addition to this, visiting groups and individuals are welcomed into the school to lead worship.

## Planning, Content and Detail

The themes for our collective worship are taken from the Church calendar, the Fundamental British Values, SMSC topics and rituals and festivals. The worship begins with the children entering the hall accompanied by a piece of music for the week. The title of this piece of music is shared with the children and could come from a variety of cultures. The three candles on the altar table are lit to symbolise the Trinity and the worship begins with the adult selecting a pupil to be the worship leader and they then begin the worship by asking the children to put their hands together and close their eyes and say our opening prayer.

*Dear God*

*At the start of this new day,  
Help us to learn and help us  
to play.*

*To concentrate on all we do,  
To understand and remember  
too.*

*Amen*

The worship then proceeds, this includes a song or hymn and a reflection time which is given towards the end. The worship leader chooses a prayer or may select a few prayers from the boxes in each classroom or the one on the worship table. The candles are then blown out and the children say '*we are the light of the world*'. The worship leader offers the Peace to everyone or the Grace is shared. The children then lead out as the music is played.

On Friday our worship celebrates the children's achievements both in and outside school. Teachers choose two members of their class to receive a special mention and certificate.

At Harvest, Mother's Day, Easter and Christmas we hold special services at All Saints', the local C of E Church. We regularly visit the church when covering certain topics in RE lessons. Each half term the Reception Children attend the Pram Service held at church.

### Prayer and Reflection

Collective worship always includes a time of prayer and reflection. A range of prayers are used including the Lord's Prayer, the school prayer, prayers written by the children and others. They are introduced by the worship leader who asks the children to prepare themselves for prayer.

Every classroom has an area where there is a bible quote displayed and a prayer box. Due to the size and layout of the classrooms we have Reflective Areas outside on a special bench and in the foyer. The children may go to these areas if they feel a need for quiet and reflection.

A cross is displayed on the worship table alongside three candles, a bible and a selection of prayers. Prayers are sometimes said throughout the day, either at lunchtime or at the end of the school day.

### Other Faiths

At All Saints' 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. Some 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

A worship book is kept, recording details of each act of worship. Evaluations will also be recorded here. Father John spends time with a group of children a few times each half term to discuss the impact of collective worship on their lives and their responses to worship.

### Visits and visitors

As part of the curriculum, All Saints' ensures that appropriate visits are made available for the children in order for them to have first-hand experiences and gain a greater understanding of various places of worship. Visitors to the school are welcomed and enabled to share their experiences

and knowledge - their role is to educate, not to evangelise. All Saints' Church is our most valuable and frequently used resource, with the whole school attending and contributing towards annual Harvest, Christmas, Easter and Mother's Day services. We also take the Year 3 and 4 children on the Faith Trail every other year. This gives them opportunity to visit a Hindu Temple, Sikh Gurdwara and an Islamic Mosque.

#### Withdrawal from R.E.

- Children may be withdrawn from R.E. lessons at the wish of their parents. This should only be done in consultation with the Head teacher. The Head teacher will ensure that suitable provision is made for such pupils.

#### Equal Opportunities and special needs issues

All pupils, regardless of academic ability, age, gender and ethnic origin will have access to a wide range of appropriate activities to support their understanding of R.E. At each Key Stage, the teacher will draw from other religions as appropriate to acknowledge and celebrate the religious beliefs of the children within the class.

Rebecca Walker  
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