



Collective Worship Policy

Date of review: June 2018

Review by: June 2021

Complaints Procedure

If anyone in the school community feels that this policy is not being followed then they should raise the matter first with the Head of School and, if concerns persists, with the Chair of Governors who will facilitate the appropriate action, which may include an investigation. If there is a formal complaint then the school's complaints procedure will be followed.

Copies of this policy will be available in the staff handbook, from the school office and on the school website.

This policy has been agreed by the Head of School and the Governing Body.

Head of School signature:

Print name:

Date:

Chair of Governors signature:

Print name:

Date:



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secure foundations ♦ excellent practice ♦ faith, hope and love

Our daily Acts of Collective Worship at St Luke's School take place within the Christian context and framework. They are an important element of our foundation, at the heart of school life and contributing to a spiritually rich environment.

Christian worship is understood to be a reverent, grateful and freely given response to God as revealed in the person of Jesus Christ. As a school with a Christian foundation we understand worship in this context.

There may be children attending St Luke's School with a Christian faith who will wish to worship as Christians but we recognise that there may also be children without such a commitment or understanding. We do not make assumptions about children's beliefs and our daily acts of Collective Worship are appropriate for every child. In particular, we do not require children to do or say things that they do not believe to be true.

Any parent who does not wish their child to join the rest of the school community for this daily time of Collective Worship is entitled under law to withdraw their child. However, the ethos of St Luke's School is carefully explained to prospective parents in the Prospectus, on the website and at Open Days. If parents are not happy with the practice of a daily act of Christian Collective Worship then there may well be other aspects of school life which they will also find difficult because our ethos runs right through school life. We would advise any prospective parent who is unsure to discuss with the Head of School.

Each Act of Collective Worship should:

- provide opportunities to share with pupils the central teachings of the Christian faith, centred around the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, at an age appropriate level and thereby encourage them to explore and reflect on their own beliefs and understanding of God.
- establish, explore and reinforce the common Christian values of the school community such as love, peace, forgiveness and compassion; secure foundations ♦ excellent practice ♦ faith, hope and love;
- allow us to find out together what God teaches in the Bible;
- include relevant features from Anglican Christian Worship e.g. prayers, songs, Bible readings, use of religious symbols e.g. candle, cross;



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- provide opportunities for us to explore our individual identity in relation to God as individuals, as members of the St Luke's School community, and as part of the wider Church community;
- provide opportunities to bring before God in prayer, personal needs and the needs of others;
- be evocative and challenging, providing opportunities for personal reflection and response;
- provide opportunities for children to develop a sense of awe and wonder.

All members of the school community, including staff, are encouraged to share in Acts of Collective Worship to develop a sense of community and belonging and in keeping with the close family ethos of the school. It is expected that all teaching staff should attend Collective Worship.

Collective worship should be planned on a termly basis by the Head of School, in consultation with the Vicar. A worship planner informs members of staff of the themes for each week, the associated Christian value, suggested readings/resources and is agreed between the Head of School and a member of the parish clergy.

"The Church school offers a distinctive language for understanding life and interpreting human experience. As a community of faith, the Church school should, in its best expression, reflect the nature of the Trinity, a life shared and defined by reference to others. Here we can begin to discover who we are, why we are, and – perhaps most importantly – what we might be"

(The Way Ahead: Church of England schools in the new millennium Archbishop's Council 2001)

Daily acts of worship are planned as follows:

Monday's worship takes place at St Luke's Parish Church led by the Vicar and/or youth worker of the St. Luke's team: There are two separate acts of worship: Early years/KS1 followed by worship for Lower/Upper KS2.

On Tuesday and Thursday, worship is led by a member of the senior leadership team

On Wednesday, collective worship is led by the Music Lead.

Friday worship is where we celebrate achievement in the school from the past week which includes a celebration of children demonstrating the school's core Christian values of love, hope and faith.

We also celebrate Christmas, Easter and Harvest Festival at our Parish Church where parents/carers are invited to join and celebrate. We celebrate St. Luke's Day annually at the school. A Leaver's Service will take place each for Year 6 to celebrate their time at the school with blessings for their future.

The Key Elements of An Act of Worship



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Year 6 monitors help to lead worship on a daily basis by setting up the hall: getting songs and music ready and helping Year 2 children to light the candle at the start of our act of worship. Year 2 children open and close the worship by saying the words: *'We light the candle to remind us that God is always with us.'* and *'Even though the candle has gone out, we still remember that God is always with us.'* Children are very keen to be chosen for this role each year and value the leadership opportunities that it brings.

A song may be used from a wide repertoire to gather the community together. Children are engaged through a Christian story, a visitor, or use of high-quality visual images. These reflect the current worship theme. Children are encouraged to offer their ideas and reflections. A range of responses are used including reflection and prayer. The children learn and say the Lord's Prayer.

Prayer

We believe that prayer should encompass the following:

- P Praise
- S Sorry – for the things done wrong by us and others
- A Asking for things – for others and ourselves
- L Listening – to God
- M Meditating on the mystery of God and the wonder of Creation

We believe that prayer should come from the heart, but we also know that it has to be taught by example. It is corporate or individual and at its heart it is communication between a believer and God. Children are encouraged to write prayers and lead prayers in our church acts of worship. When a class leads an act of worship the children lead the school in prayer

Evaluation of Worship

Acts of worship are informally evaluated on a day to day basis through dialogue between members of the senior leadership team and the clergy. The Chair of Governors attends at least one act of worship each term and provides informal feedback on this to the head of School. The school council leaders also have a responsibility to evaluate and feedback on collective worship. The themes of worship are evaluated annually by members of the clergy and the Head of School. Parents attend at least one act of collective worship each term.

The routines and practice of our daily act of Collective Worship will be reviewed regularly by the Ethos Group, Governors and Head of School.

This policy will be reviewed by the Ethos Group, at the discretion of the Governing Body.



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