



SLS Collective Worship Policy 2022



secure foundations — excellent practice — faith, hope and love

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Collective Worship Policy

Date of review: January 2022

Review by: January 2025

secure foundations ♦ excellent practice ♦ faith, hope and love

Our daily acts of Collective Worship at St Luke's CE 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 CE 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 CE School is carefully explained to prospective parents in the school 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 this with the Headteacher.

"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)

During our acts of Collective Worship at St Luke's CE School, we endeavour to:

- offer the opportunity, without compulsion, to all pupils and adults to grow spiritually through experiences of prayer, stillness, worship and reflection.
- establish, explore and strengthen the core Christian values of the school community: faith (friendship and perseverance), hope (trust and courage) and love (compassion and forgiveness).



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- enable pupils and adults to appreciate that Christians worship in different ways, for example using music, silence, story, prayer, reflection and exploring the varied liturgical and other traditions of Anglican/Methodist worship and festivals.
- help pupils and adults to appreciate the relevance of faith in today's world, to encounter the teachings of Jesus and the Bible and to develop their understanding of the Christian belief in the trinitarian nature of God and its language.
- enable pupils as well as adults to engage in the planning, leading and evaluation of collective worship in ways that lead to improving practice.
- encourage the strengthening of the partnership between the school and the local church.

Collective Worship helps the school to develop a sense of community and belonging. It is expected that all teaching staff attend Collective Worship.

Collective worship is planned on a termly basis by the SLT and in consultation with the staff team at St Luke's church. A half-termly planner is produced detailing the core Christian value being explored, the theme for each day (and any suggested resources) and the person leading and planning the worship.

Planning daily acts of worship are planned as follows:

- Monday, Tuesday and Thursday worship times are planned and led by a member of senior staff.
- Wednesday worship takes place at St Luke's Church and is planned and led by a member of clergy or church staff.
- Friday worship is led by our Year 6 children. This is where we celebrate achievement in the school from the past week and recognise those children who have demonstrated one of our core Christian values (nominated by their peers or teachers).

Once every term, each class leads an act of worship and presents what they have learned to the rest of the school. Parents and carers are welcome to join us to celebrate their child's learning.

We celebrate the major Christian festivals throughout the year (Harvest, Christmas and Easter), marking these and also the start of each term with specially planned services at St Luke's Church. Our final church service of the academic year is our Year 6 Leavers' Service where children can reflect on their learning and achievements at St Luke's CE School and be assured of God's blessing as they continue their learning journey in the secondary phase. Wherever possible, parents and carers are warmly invited to join us for all services held in church.



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The Key Elements of An Act of Worship

Year 6 monitors help to prepare for worship by setting up the seating in the hall and lighting the candle at the start of our act of worship. We open the worship by saying the words: *'We light the candle to remind us that God is always with us.'* and close with *'Even though the candle is out, we still remember that God is always with us.'* Children are very keen for this role and value the leadership opportunities that it brings.

The act of Collective Worship may include an exploration of a Bible verse or passage, a story or scenario, an idea, an image or a video. Children are encouraged to share their reflections with a talk partner, with the worship leader or in the silence of their hearts. The theme of the worship is drawn together with the opportunity for stillness, reflection and prayer.

Prayer

We believe that prayer should come from the heart, but we also know that it has to be taught by example. It can be corporate or individual, but at its heart it is communication between a believer and God. Children are encouraged to write and lead prayers in our church services and during class-led assemblies. We regularly say the Lord's Prayer together and have set prayers we say in class throughout the days (See Appendix)

During the course of the school year, prayer in Collective Worship should offer the opportunity for:

- P Praise
- S saying 'sorry' for the things we have done wrong
- A Asking for God's gifts – for others and ourselves
- L Listening to God
- M Meditating on the mystery of God and the wonder of Creation

Evaluation of Worship

The school council, SLT and clergy work together to provide evaluation of and feedback from Collective Worship throughout the year. Collective Worship is also a strand of the school's Christian life that is inspected by SIAMS. <https://ldbs.co.uk/collective-worship/>



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Appendix 1: St Luke's CE School Prayers

Daily Class Prayers

Morning Prayer

Heavenly Father,
Thank you for giving this new day to me.
Help me to make it one that pleases you
by doing my best in everything.
Amen.

Lunchtime Prayer

Bless us, O God, as we sit together,
Bless the food we eat today.
Bless the hands that made the food,
Bless us, O God,
Amen!

Home time Prayer

Thank you, God for school today,
Thank you, God for work and play,
Thank you, God for everything,
Thank you, God.
Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

*Also known as the Our Father, it is the prayer
that Jesus taught his friends (see Luke 11:2-4;
Matthew 6:9-13)*

This is the traditional version:

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power, and the glory
for ever and ever.
Amen.



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Appendix 2: Collective Worship during the COVID-19 pandemic

During the COVID-19 pandemic, our daily acts of Collective Worship will continue and extra measures will be put into place in accordance with the risks and actions detailed in the school's current risk assessment.

These extra measures may include:

- Social distancing and increased ventilation in the Hall
- Social distancing and increased ventilation in the church
- Children and adults participate remotely from the classrooms via Zoom
- Acts of Collective Worship are videoed and shared via a secure link to our school YouTube channel
- Visitors to school are asked to wear masks and sanitize hands upon entry to the building and observe social distancing
- Visitors to school are asked to connect remotely to the classrooms via Zoom

The Headteacher will communicate with parents, staff, children and St Luke's church staff as and when arrangements change so they can be assured of our continued commitment to the spiritual, mental and physical health of the school community.



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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 Headteacher 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 Headteacher and the Governing Body.

Headteacher signature:

Print name:

Date:

Chair of Governors signature:

Print name:

Date: