

## All Saints' Upton C of E Primary School Collective Worship Policy

### Policy Statement

At All Saints Upton School, the daily act of invitational 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 mission statement.

‘Let all that you do be done in love’ 1 Corinthians 16:14

By our faith and trust in the love of God we aim to provide a school for our community where children experience the joy of learning, peace in their hearts and hope for the future.

It is a time where we come together to share our 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

Although difficult to define, we identify the main values of love & compassion, thankfulness, forgiveness, hope, perseverance, trust and peace. 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.

### Values Education

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. (See Appendix 1)

### 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 to withdraw their children from the act of worship either partially or wholly. Any parents wishing to do so should contact the Head teacher. 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:

Monday	Whole school Worship led by the Headteacher (or a member of SLT)
Tuesday	Whole school Worship led by the pupil worship team and members of staff
Wednesday	Whole school worship led by a member of staff, visiting speaker or class. Every third week a whole school hymn practice led by members of staff.
Thursday	Individual Class Collective Worship, led by the class teacher. These assemblies follow the same theme, but content is differentiated appropriately. Picture News is used.
Friday	Whole School Values celebration, with prayer/reflection time linked to the particular value led by Head or Deputy

The daily assembly/worship should last approximately 15 minutes.

Each class leads a class assembly once during the school year when parents, relatives and friends are invited to join us. (See Appendix 2 timetable of class assemblies)  
In addition to this, visiting groups and individuals are welcomed into the school regularly to lead worship.

### Planning, Content and Detail

The themes for whole school Collective Worship reflect our Values and Vision focus for that month, the Church calendar, our school ethos and current events. The worship begins with the children entering the hall accompanied by a piece of music. The flameless candle on the focal table is lit and the worship begins, sometimes with the children singing a praise song. The children are regularly involved in the worship, which finishes with a prayer. The candle is then switched off before any messages are given. This allows for us to make a clear distinction between worship and assembly. The children then lead out as the music is played.

**Class Collective Worship** follows the same format as Key Stage Collective Worship, no hymn is sung. Usually it is a Bible story which is linked to the current value or theme. During this collective worship time, teachers follow a similar format where we Gather, Listen and Respond then Go Forth. Class teachers develop the children's understanding of the Trinity by using a Bible, a cross and a flameless candle in order to focus the worship.

**Tuesday's** Collective worship is led by a member of staff and the worship team. The worship team consists of six members of the Year 6 class, who are committed to planning, taking

part and leading whole school worship each week. The themes again, reflect our Values and Vision focus for that month, the Church calendar, our school ethos and current events. The worship begins with the children entering the hall accompanied by a piece of music. The flameless candle on the focal table is lit and the worship begins. The worship team may then ask questions, retell a story or act out a scene, relating to the current value. The children then sing a praise song and finish with a prayer. The candle is then switched off before any messages are given.

**Wednesday's** Collective worship is led by a member of staff or a visiting speaker, who celebrates worship with the staff and children. All members of staff are encouraged to lead a worship session during the year, with a focus on an inspirational person or event which links with our Christian or British values. Visiting speakers are invited to celebrate events such as Christingle, Easter. The children enter and leave to music as on previous days. **Every third week members of staff will lead children in whole school hymn practice with moments of prayer and reflection.**

Foundation Stage/Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 have planned themes for their acts of collective worship on **Thursdays**. The format is similar to Key stage worship, although, no hymn is sung. During this collective worship time teachers follow a similar format where we Gather, Listen and Respond then Go Forth. Class teachers develop the children's understanding of the Trinity by using a Bible, a cross and a flameless candle in order to focus the worship. Picture News is used fortnightly to ensure children reflect on current issues.

**Friday's** celebration includes the switching on of candle to focus the children's attention and aims to develop the children's understanding of new worship songs as well as learning them. All class teachers choose one child who has followed the school rules or worked well throughout the week to receive a 'Star of the Week' certificate. The session ends with a time for reflection or a prayer before the candle is switched off and messages are given. The children enter and leave in the same way as before.

### Prayer and Reflection



Collective worship always includes a time of prayer and/or reflection. A range of prayers are used including the Lord's Prayer, prayers written by the children and others. They are introduced in an appropriate manner with a short time of quiet. All children and adults are invited to 'make the prayer their own'.

At the beginning of the whole school worship led by the Headteacher or Deputy Head, a time of reflection and quiet is encouraged by the 'lighting' of candles. A cross is also displayed on the focal table.

At the beginning of the lunch hour, a prayer or grace is said in each class. Teachers usually say a prayer with their class at the end of the school day.

**Within each class there is a worship focus area. It is a focal point for praying or quiet reflection and teachers refer to this as the worship station. The worship station follows the Windows, Mirrors and Doors theme. Windows to provide opportunities for children to be aware of the world in new ways, looking out into the world. Mirrors to provide opportunities to reflect on their experiences and look inside themselves. Doors to provide**

opportunities for our children to respond and live out our values. The worship area is based on each of our values and may display relevant prayers, stories, quotes or tasks, relating to the current value. Each worship station is used on a daily basis by the class.

In the whole school reflection area there is a prayer book which children and adults can add to and these are used in collective worship.

### Other Faiths

Although our worship reflects our Christian beliefs and values, we are committed to respecting each other's faith stance and culture, showing tolerance and understanding regardless of pupils' beliefs. The class-led 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 file is kept, recording details of acts of worship. Any evaluation will be recorded here, including those from the children. Training is encouraged and can be available for those who wish to lead acts of worship.

(See Appendix 3 CW Evaluation Proforma)

### Visits and visitors

As part of the curriculum, All Saints' Upton School 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. We aim to visit the local church for significant occasions throughout the year.

### Parents/Governors/Diocesan Liaison and Local Community Issues

- Children may be withdrawn from R.E. lessons at the wish of their parents. The Headteacher 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.

APPENDIX 1 Values

APPENDIX 2 Timetable for Collective Worship

APPENDIX 3 Evaluation proforma