



POLICY FOR COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Saint Saviour's Church of England Junior School

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| Policy: | Collective Worship Policy |
| Review Period: | 2 years |
| Ratified by Governing Body: | May 2024 |
| Date of next review: | May 2026 |

Christian Values

Christian values inform our actions and thoughts on a daily basis.

Community, Consideration, Courage

Our vision and values are at the core of everything we do. They underpin our teaching and learning, and provide an environment which prepares our pupils as confident, happy citizens.

Introduction and rationale underpinning the school approach

The school educates children from many different backgrounds. There are families of different faiths, of which Christianity is the most common, and no faith at all.

Saint Saviour's is a Church of England Controlled School. The Church's influence in the school community is maintained both in the school's collective worship and in the appointment of foundation Governors. The Governing Body aims to promote the Christian spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils and prepare pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experience of adult life.

Our collective worship policy strengthens and supports the Christian identity of our school, reaffirms our vision and associated values of **Thankfulness, Perseverance, Compassion, Forgiveness, Courage and Community** and celebrates the central role that each child has to play in their community. Our worship reflects the variety of traditions found in the Church of England, and will recognise and follow the Christian liturgical year. The daily Christian act of worship is central to our ethos and is supported by all staff and governors. It makes an important contribution to the overall spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of the whole school community. Our worship also reflects the fact that there is a breadth of belief and practice within Christianity and that diversity of belief is celebrated. Prayer and worship are invitational, we will not assume that children or adults wish to engage in Christian or indeed any form of worship or belief.

Collective Worship gives pupils and school staff the opportunity to:

- Engage in an act of community
- Express praise and thanksgiving to God

- Be still and reflect
- Explore the big questions of life and respond to national events
- Foster respect and deepen spiritual awareness
- Reflect on the character of God and on the teachings of Christ through Biblical texts
- Affirm Christian values and attitudes
- Share each other's joys and challenges
- Celebrate special times in the Christian calendar

St. Saviour's Approach to acts of collective worship

St. Saviour's will ensure the following:

- We introduce children to Anglican Christian worship and invite active participation.
- We provide opportunities for spiritual development, developing a sense of awe and wonder.
- We use Diocese of Canterbury collective worship plans.
- We provide an atmosphere of trust and develop a sense of community within the school.
- We encourage the celebration and development of our school's values, ethos and achievements.
- Prayer and reflection are invitational, pupils should not feel they *have* to pray

The Anglican Christian Tradition

The following are shared as Christian elements of collective worship:

- Exploring the Christian understanding of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit
- Using the Bible for inspiration, stories and guidance
- Observing the cycle of the Church's Year – Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, Pentecost and Saints Days amongst ordinary days
- Learning and saying prayers from a number of sources, in particular the Lord's Prayer and the blessings in common use
- Singing a wide variety of hymns and songs from traditional to modern
- Experiencing Christian symbols in worship and reflecting on their meaning
- The use of prayer, silence and reflection
- Using Psalms with simple responses

We may also use elements which are more distinctively Anglican:

- Using prayers from Common Worship
- Using Anglican sentences and responses at the beginning and end of worship
- Celebrating Eucharist

- We enable adults and children to worship together. Children should lead collective worship when appropriate
- We provide opportunities for silence, reflection and prayer.
- We foster a caring attitude towards others, the environment and the wider world

Organisation

- Collective worship takes place daily. Worship takes place in the school hall on all days except Thursday when it takes place in class
- Inclusive, available for all pupils
- Planned with specific themes and follows the church calendar – Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, Pentecost and Saints’ Days – based around Diocese of Canterbury worship plans
- Includes drama, readings, poems or hymns in order to engage children
- Allows children to engage, respond, reflect and pray
- Makes explicit links between Christian belief and values and children’s everyday lives
- Provide opportunities for children to say and share prayers
- Sing a wide variety of Christian hymns and songs
- Experience and understand Anglican Christian symbols such as the crucifix, bread, wine, candles etc.
- Celebrate Eucharist
- Use Anglican sentences and responses such as *The Lord is here, his spirit is here with us*
- Link when possible with St. Saviour’s Church

Daily Acts of Worship

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| Monday | Whole school worship based on Christian Values, led by Headteacher |
| Tuesday | Whole school worship, led by children, based on R.E learning |
| Wednesday | Whole school worship engaging and responding with singing |
| Thursday | Upper and lower school worship, class-led collective worship <i>During class worship, teachers use an imitation candle to mark the transition from classwork to worship</i> |
| Friday | Whole school worship, celebration, led by Year 6 children |

The legal requirements of collective worship in Voluntary Aided and Voluntary Controlled schools.

- Be conducted in accordance with the provision of the Trust Deeds of the school and Instrument of Government and should be consistent with the beliefs and practices of the Church of England
- The Governing Body should ensure that all pupils **each day** engage meaningfully in a real act of Christian worship which is in accordance with the faith and practice of the Church
- Arrangements for collective worship, in foundation schools of a religious character, are the responsibility of the Governing Body, after consulting with the Headteacher (*DfE Circular 1/94 para 52 & 53*)
- All acts of worship in Church schools must be Christian in character (based on Biblical teachings)

- All registered pupils (apart from those whose parents exercise the right to withdraw) must on 'each school day take part in an act of collective worship'

Implementation

Collective worship, whether in assembly or class time, will:

- be of a distinctly Anglican nature
- be acceptable to the whole community, staff and pupils
- include a variety of elements at different times
- involve the pupils

Right of Withdrawal

Parents and carers have a legal right to withdraw their child from collective worship, though it is hoped that, by requesting and accepting a place at St. Saviour's Church of England Junior School they understand the centrality of Christianity to the school in its daily life.

If you do not wish your child to attend collective worship, a formal, written request must be made to the Headteacher.

Monitoring, Evaluation and Review

The Headteacher keeps a record of whole school collective worship, annotated with evaluation. Pupils, staff, governors and parents may be asked to contribute to this evaluative process.

The school will review this policy every two years and assess its implementation and effectiveness. The policy will be promoted and implemented throughout the school.

School council provide valuable feedback and input for collective worship, suggesting approaches and content they feel would benefit pupils – this is a standing agenda item for school council meetings.