



Collective Worship Policy

Updated November 2023



At All Saints Academy, it is our vision to provide the 'good soil' for every member of our community to develop deep roots and **flourish** as a unique individual and achieve their full potential. With the highest of expectations, we nurture and develop each individual so that they can explore who they are and make a positive contribution to our local community and the wider world.



A loving place where we all care, learn and grow together.

Our vision and values are central to all that we do. They are promoted through our curriculum, they run through our policies and they inform our day to day decision making.

Intent

At All Saints Academy, collective worship is seen as more than a daily 'awe and wonder' moment. It is the unique heartbeat of the school and is offered as part of a wider opportunity for pupils and adults to encounter faith by engaging in conversations about God, both as individuals and together.

Our aspiration is to provide collective worship that is inclusive, invitational and inspirational. At All Saints Academy, the daily act of collective worship is highly valued and every effort is made to ensure that all pupils and staff take part in a high quality and meaningful experience offering a spiritual encounter with an inclusive Christian and educational context.

Worship should provide opportunities to:

- Understand about God, faith and spirituality
- Develop a sense of awe and wonder
- Celebrate the beliefs and cultures of others- particularly those represented in our school
- Increase a sense of self-worth and the worth of others
- Provide time to be still and reflect
- Develop a sense of community
- Share the joys and sorrows of life
- Develop understanding of the churches calendar and liturgy
- Explore the schools Christian values to deepen pupils understanding of them and how they relate to the school, local community and wider world
- Inspire pupils to develop and further explore their own faith
- Enable pupils to reflect on the experiences of Christians
- Celebrate achievements of members of the school in every aspect of school life

Worship both reflects and nurtures the vision and values of the school. It encompasses all aspects of school life and all areas of the curriculum so that every member of staff and every pupil may feel involved. Collective worship at All Saints Academy helps develop the feeling of belonging to a community which is essential for personal development and spiritual growth.

Worship reflects fundamental Christian values especially the values our school have adopted across the school, specifically:

- Respect
- Kindness
- Perseverance
- Honesty
- Courage
- Empathy

Legal requirements

The 1988 Education Act states, ‘.....all pupils in attendance at a maintained school shall in each school day take part in an act of collective worship’.

Despite being an academy, we still hold the status of a voluntary controlled (VC) school. Our daily act of collective worship is in accordance with the Trust Deed of the school. The character of collective worship is in accordance with the principles of the Church of England, thereby being ‘... mainly of a broadly Christian character’.

We also take into account guidance released by the Department of Education (DfE). The following link will take you to the current legislation.

[Collective worship in schools - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)

[RE and collective worship in academies and free schools - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)

Weekly structure

At All Saints Academy, collective worship takes place five days a week at the end of the school day between 2:40pm and 3:00pm. Our worship schedule is as follows:

Monday:	Focus on something happening locally/nationally or globally (sometimes using Picture News, if relevant). This is linked to school vision/ values/ British values and protected characteristics (as appropriate and relevant). This collective worship introduces a reflection question which the pupils discuss in class collective worship on Tuesday.
Tuesday:	Class collective worship (linked back to the reflection question introduced on Monday).
Wednesday:	Bible story linked to the church calendar, the school vision or a Christian value (usually Church led).
Thursday:	Sing to worship
Friday:	Praise

Inclusive, Invitational, and Inspiring

Inclusive

Worship is collective in that it involves meeting, exploring, questioning, and responding to others and, for some, to God. In our school our pupils, their families and other adults can expect to encounter worship that is inclusive of, and fully accessible to, all. Pupils and staff in our school may come from homes of different faith backgrounds as well as of no faith background. Moreover, many pupils will naturally be at different stages of their spiritual journey during their time in school. Pupils will be given the opportunity to think and ask questions. There will be space to consent, and dissent: to participate and to stand back; and to consider. It is an expectation that care will be taken to ensure that the language used by those facilitating worship avoids assuming faith in all those participating, listening, and watching.

Collective worship should not be 'done to' but will involve meaningful contributions from the whole school community, including pupils. It is recognised that pupils will bring their own experience to worship.

Inclusion requires pupil involvement in planning, leading and the evaluation of worship.

Invitational

Pupils and adults can expect to encounter worship that is consistently invitational. There should be no compulsion to 'do anything'. Rather, worship should provide the opportunity to engage whilst allowing the freedom of those of different faiths and those who profess no religious faith to be present and to engage with integrity. The metaphor of 'warm fires and open doors' captures this idea. The warmth of the fire derives from the clarity and authenticity of the Christian message at its heart. There is no value to an encounter with a watered down, lowest common denominator version of faith. Importantly the door is open, all are welcome to come in and sit as near or as far away from the fire as they feel comfortable. Pupils and adults should always only be invited to pray if they wish to do so and should be invited to pray in their own way.

Inspiring

Pupils and adults can expect the worship they encounter to be inspirational. Worship should be formational and transformational: it should enable pupils and adults to ask big questions about who we are and why we do what we do. It should motivate pupils and adults into action, into thinking differently, and into reflecting on their and the wider community's behaviour and actions. As a result of inspirational collective worship, they should be inspired to become courageous advocates of causes. It should encourage them to think searchingly about their faith, beliefs and/or philosophical convictions.

Pupils supporting worship

At All Saints Academy pupils supporting worship is a central part of what we do as a school. The children will have the following responsibilities:

Before worship	During worship	After worship
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<p>1. <u>Setting up</u> The children will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Switch on the laptop • Switch on the screen • Putting out chairs/benches 	<p>2. <u>Welcoming</u> The children will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hold doors open for children entering • Meet any visitors at Reception (and help them to set up) 	<p>3. <u>Gathering</u> The children will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Saying a welcoming sentence 'We meet together to worship together and grow together'.
<p>4. <u>Engaging</u> The children will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take part in drama activities such as Open the Book. • Readings/prayers • Leading actions or signing to songs • Support teachers with music, video clips and PowerPoint slides 	<p>5. <u>Clearing away</u> The children will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hold doors open for those leaving. • Put away equipment and chairs. • Turn off laptop and screen 	<p>6. <u>Evaluating</u> The children will have the opportunity to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluate collective worship • Work together to look at evaluations and plan the next steps for Collective Worship. • Share evaluation findings with school collective worship lead and headteacher.

Collective worship structure

Gathering

During the gathering, calming music is played as pupils and staff enter the hall. A pupil from each class adds their collective worship 'token' to the tree as their class enters. As the lights are lit, a member of the Collective Worship Council will say the welcome sentence 'We meet together to worship together and grow together'.

Learning

To engage and learn about the value or theme of the worship, a picture, video, object, game, drama or story will be used. Any biblical content will be shared in an aspiring way. Pupils will reflect what the learning means to them and make connections with the stimulus. Pupils will think about how they can apply the belief or newfound knowledge to what they see in their life or the world around them.

Responding (reflection/prayer)

In this part of our worship pupils and adults are given the opportunity to reflect. Each collective worship ends with a prayer. We always phrase this section so that prayer is an invitation, not a command.

Sending

Children will leave the hall listening to music so that they can think about the message or theme of the worship.

Section 48 Statutory Inspection of Anglican & Methodist Schools (SIAMS)

All church schools will be inspected on collective worship and the impact this has on the whole school community. Inspection question three of the SIAMS framework (2023) explores how collective worship enables pupils and adults to flourish spiritually.

Parental right to withdraw

We recognise the right of withdrawal from worship for pupils at the request of parents and for staff, but encourage discussion with the relevant individuals to ensure that there is understanding of the aims and objectives of worship, and strategies for minimising the disruption caused by any withdrawals.

Monitoring and Reviewing

The Headteacher is responsible for reviewing the effectiveness of this policy on a regular basis. The school governing body has the responsibility to support the Head teacher in implementing and reviewing the effectiveness of the Collective Worship Policy.