

St Laurence's Church of England Primary School



Last Reviewed: May 2023

Next Review: May 2026

Collective Worship Policy

Rational:

St Laurence's C of E Primary School is a Church of England Voluntary Controlled School. Worship is therefore an important part of the school day as it gives us the opportunity to come together as a school community to take part in spiritual contemplation, reflection and prayer. All the children attend, and staff and any visitors in school are very welcome to join in.

Collective Worship and the Law:

As a church school we fulfil the two legal requirements for Collective Worship:

- The legal requirement for Church schools ensures that every child in the school is entitled to an opportunity for daily worship. "The arrangements for the required collective worship may, in respect of each school day, provide for a single act of worship for all pupils or for separate acts of worship for pupils in different age groups or in different school groups." The School Standards and Framework Act 1998.
- All acts of worship at St Laurence's CE Primary School are in accordance with the school's Trust Deed and reflect the Anglican status of the school. In addition to daily school worship, special celebrations take place in Church.

Aims of Collective Worship

It is our aim at St Laurence's CE Primary School that worship should:

- provide an experience of worship that will allow children to respond to the presence, power and peace of God
- introduce children to Christian language and symbolism and the cycle of the church year
- explore a variety of ways of praying and introduce children to some well-known Christian prayers, e.g. Lord's Prayer

- strengthen and support the school community giving expression to and reaffirming the Christian values of the school
- celebrate the gifts that each child brings to the school community, recognising the uniqueness of each individual made in the image of God
- encourage children to reflect on the puzzling questions that life poses and to respond to the wonder and mystery of the world around them
- foster a concern for others within the school and wider world
- foster an appreciation of the created world and an awareness of our responsibility for it.

The Planning of Collective Worship

Each half term, there is a theme for Collective Worship based on the Christian Values. Those leading worship are encouraged to relate their worship to this theme. The themes chosen are broad enough to allow all those leading worship to approach the theme from their own perspective. This will mean that by the end of the week the pupils will have had the opportunity to reflect on the theme from a variety of viewpoints. Alternatively class teachers may develop their worship from themes and events that occur on the curriculum during the week. This pattern is flexible and on occasions it is recognised that teachers may feel that they need to respond to local or national events.

Delivery of Collective Worship

Collective Worship is Collective Worship provided underpinned by the school's Christian ethos and Christian values. Collective Worship is given a special period in the school day:

- Monday 10:10-10:30– Whole School Collective Worship
- Tuesday 10:10-10:30–Departmental (Key Stage) Collective Worship
- Wednesday 10:10-10:30– Whole School Collective Worship; **class-based worship or visitors.** (If Class based, then the timings may alter usually 9:15-9:45)
- Thursday 10.10-10.30 – Whole School Collective Worship/**Celebration Time.**
- Friday .10.10-10.30 – Whole School Celebration Worship /**Open the Book (Acts 2)**

Worship takes place in a variety of settings; for example - In the school hall, in a class, outside, in the local church. It is led by the head teacher, class teachers, the children, the local rector, governors and, on occasions, outside speakers.

The school attends St Laurence's Church to celebrate significant times of the liturgical year. The pattern of worship reflects the broad spectrum of the Anglican tradition and Christian heritage. It allows the pupils to encounter some of the wide range of art, music and artefacts within the Christian tradition and offers opportunities for pupils' spiritual, moral, social, cultural and personal development.

Worship provides pupils with an opportunity to worship God in an environment conducive to worship. It offers pupils opportunities to encounter the more challenging experiences of life and death and provide opportunities for the pupils to share and reflect upon things that are significant and meaningful to them. Each act of worship gives time for silent reflection and an exploration of inner space. The school hall has a 'sacred table' set aside with a bible and a candle as a vehicle for prayer and reflection, and a prayer board that holds the children's own written prayers.

Worship at St Laurence's CE Primary School is an uplifting and positive experience, celebrating all that is good and expressing thankfulness to and joy in God.

We encourage pupils to voice their views on collective worship and to be a part of the evaluation process. Governors and all staff are part of the evaluation process to ensure that the standard of worship [at St Laurence's school is of the highest quality.

Rights of Withdrawal

St Laurence's CE Primary School is an inclusive community; however we respect the right of parents to withdraw their children for Collective Worship. This school expects that withdrawal will only be made following parental discussion with the head teacher co-ordinator followed by written confirmation of withdrawal. The school has a system of suitable supervision for students withdrawn from Acts of Collective Worship. However, no additional work is set or followed in this time. All teachers in VC Schools, including the head teacher, have the right of withdrawal from the Act of Collective Worship, but the head teacher maintains statutory accountability for Acts of Collective Worship in St Laurence's CE Primary School.

Head teacher: S.Matthews