



St Luke's CE Primary School

Collective worship policy 2015

Responsibility of	Curriculum & Standards Committee
Reviewed	Every three years
This version dated	September 2015
Every three years	September 2018

At St. Luke's we:

- ... expect honesty, integrity, respect and trust
- ... promote love, compassion, forgiveness and reconciliation
- ... aspire to be creative, challenge, inspire and learn
- ... want children who are happy, are healthy, are safe and are valued

"To worship is to quicken the conscience by the holiness of God, to feed the mind with the truth of God, to purge the imagination by the beauty of God, to open the heart to the love of God, to devote the will to the purpose of God." William Temple, Archbishop of Canterbury 1942-44

1 Aims and purpose

1.1 The aims and purpose of collective worship are:

- to provide an opportunity for the children to worship God;
- to enable children to consider spiritual and moral issues;
- to enable children to explore their own beliefs;
- to encourage participation and response;
- to develop in children a sense of community spirit;
- to promote a common ethos with shared values and to reinforce positive attitudes;
- to teach children how to worship.

2 Collective worship

2.1 Collective worship is the daily gathering together of the school, or part of the school, community. It is not a lesson; it is an opportunity for 'worth-ship': to reflect on what is of ultimate worth in people's lives, presently based on broadly Christian virtues and values. It will draw on a variety of sources, including stories, readings, hymns or songs, drama, imagery but it requires a time of reflection to allow children to respond personally, perhaps through a time of silence. However, to be 'worship', it must also acknowledge and enable children to make a personal choice of reverence, prayer or response to the transcendent.

2.2 In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act, which states that collective worship should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character', we normally base our collective worship on the teachings of Christ and traditions of the Christian Church. The school is a collection of people who come from a variety of backgrounds and who happen to be together primarily for the purpose of education, not for worship. The family backgrounds of pupils may

be very different in terms of beliefs and adherence to religion, from the atheist, secular humanist to a devout background of a faith, either Christian or another world religion. This means that in collective worship in a school "all" we can do is lead people to the threshold of worship by providing a setting where they may worship God if they so wish.

3. How we achieve these aims

3.1. During collective worship, whether in the hall, classroom or outside, we will apply the following 'central attributes' of worship:

Gathering - Making special and significant this part of the day through appropriate symbol and ceremony

Engaging - Using the best available techniques to stimulate interest in the content

Responding - Ensuring there is time and opportunity for individual, group reflection and thought, so those attending can respond in a variety of ways

Sending - Summarising the worship in a meaningful short message used to create an opportunity for those attending to implement the ideas covered and to conclude the worship

3.2. We expect Collective Worship to involve all members of the school gathering, responding, and leaving with a sense of having developed and connected with their spirituality.

3.3. The themes of collective worship are planned to explore the meaning and applications of the values of St Luke's CE Primary School and link these to Christian stories and teaching.

3.4. We use different bible stories and themes, and other stories from the Christian tradition to celebrate and develop children's knowledge of Christian beliefs, celebrations, traditions and religious festivals in the Anglican Church's year.

3.5. We use the skills and gifts of all in the school community, and develop worship that can be active, noisy, silent, and which uses music, drama and art and other gifts and skills and at other times develops silence and listening and reflection.

3.6. We involve pupils in reviewing collective worship.

3.7. We provide opportunities that develop pupils' awareness of what is beautiful, good, wonderful, awesome and puzzling in life experience and use a wide range of resources, devotional aids, artefacts (from religious and secular sources), music, art, drama and external speakers to engage children's interest.

3.8. We use 'Windows Mirrors Doors' concept which we encourage as part of our daily collective worship.

Windows: Opportunities to look out on the world to gaze and wonder: The Wow and Ows moments. The things we find amazing and bring us up short.

Encounter: The learning about life

Mirrors: Giving opportunities for children to reflect, to look inward to consider some of the big questions of life: To explore their own insights and those of others.

Reflection: The learning from.

Doors: Giving opportunities to children to respond, to do something to go through the door of a creative expression of their own thoughts and convictions.

Transformation: The learning to live by putting into action what they believe.

4. Organisation of collective worship

4.1. We normally hold a daily act of collective worship in our school.

Monday: Whole School collective worship

Tuesday: Key Stage collective worship

Wednesday: Whole School collective worship led by the vicar of St. Luke's CE Primary

Thursday: Whole School

Friday: Reflexive Friday's held in classrooms.

4.2. On some days the time is used for presentations or other activities which are not Collective Worship, in which case opportunities are provided for children to experience worship in their class environment.

4.3. Worship may be led by many different members of the school community including: groups of pupils; the Headteacher; Deputy Headteachers; teaching staff, Vicar of St. Luke's Church and leaders from other local churches and organisations our Christian Values are explored. :

These values are: love, trust, patience, respect, friendship and forgiveness.

Christian Festivals are integrated into this cycle

4.4. We have a regular programme of services at St. Luke's Church, typically at Harvest, Christmas and Easter all children participate and parents are invited to attend. Year 6 also participate in a leavers assembly at Manchester Cathedral and Year 2 attend a banner service at St. Chad's Church in Rochdale with other Year 2 classes from Rochdale.

5. Right of withdrawal

5.1. We expect all children to participate in times of collective worship. However, any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from attending religious worship and the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during the period concerned. Parents do not have to explain or give reasons for this. This complies with the 1944 Education Act and was restated in the 1988 Education Reform Act.

5.2. The Headteacher keeps a record of all children who are withdrawn from worship by their parents.

6. Monitoring and review

6.1. Governors are encouraged to attend any act of collective worship as part of the programme of Governor Visits

6.2. Pupils are included in review and development of collective worship.