Collective Worship Policy

Approved by:	**Full Governing Body**
Date:	**January 2026**
Next review due by:	**January 2029**

St. Leonard's is a Church of England School. All policies implemented across the school support the creation of a learning culture which celebrates our Christian vision of preparing children for "Life in all its fullness" and our core values of Love, Respect and Responsibility.

Introduction

At St. Leonard's C E School, the daily act of 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 Christian vision.

'Everyone Matters'

As a church school we want all our children to have the opportunity to learn to worship through distinctively Christian worship and to grow in their understanding of God and of themselves. We believe that at its heart our worship should provide an opportunity for pupils and staff to come together to learn, reflect, pray, sing, share and communicate their joys and sorrows with one another and with God. The worship is based on promoting the Christian values which permeate the ethos of the school: Love, Respect and Responsibility.

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.

Aims and Objectives

At St. Leonard's C E Primary School we always seek to reflect in our worship the Christian foundation of the school and its care for all who work here. Children are helped to understand the meaning of Christian worship and we hope that believers will be able to share in it and that others of no faith will reach the 'threshold of worship'.

Our central aims of collective worship are to:

• Provide pupils with the opportunity for spiritual reflection and development with the choice of making a personal and private response.

• Foster the values of love, respect and responsibility and bring them to the forefront, giving everyone the chance to reflect on what is important beyond the here and now.

• Encourage pupil participation.

• Promote collective worship as a special time in the daily life of the school.

• Provide collective worship which reflects the broad traditions of the Christian Church.

• Represent and recognise the diversity of belief and practice within the worship.

• Recognise, affirm, celebrate and reinforce the values and Christian ethos of the school family

• Assist pupils to make sense of the world in which they live and foster a sense of awe and wonder.

• Teach pupils as far as possible, to appreciate and respect their own cultural traditions and the variety and richness of others.

• Provide experiences that can lead to reflection and thought and provide an atmosphere of calm and quietness in which the children can reflect.

• Help children to share joys, worries and ideas which are meaningful and significant to them, within our caring School Community.

• To include parents, where possible, in our worship.

• Raise aspirations of individuals and the School Community.

• To give an opportunity to acquire a secure knowledge of the Christian faith as revealed in the Bible.

• To understand, celebrate and develop children's knowledge of Christian beliefs, celebrations, traditions and religious festivals in the Anglican Church's year.

• To appreciate that people, cultures and beliefs differ and to demonstrate respect, tolerance and generosity towards them, celebrating difference and diversity

• To develop a caring attitude to others and a sense of community and loyalty.

• To provide opportunities for children to plan, lead, contribute to, monitor and evaluate collective worship.

• To invite clergy of the parish, other lay members of the parish and other Christian leaders in the community (as are acceptable to the parish church) to lead worship termly.

• Provide an opportunity to bring before God in prayer personal needs and those of others.

• Encourage respect and care for God's creation by a positive attitude to both local and global environmental issues.

• Provide memorable and enjoyable experiences.

• Develop a sense of community within the school and of being part of a wider community.

We aim to promote collective acts of worship, which are rich, meaningful experiences that are appropriate and significant to the pupils' needs, age, development and interest by:

• Planning and linking themes which focus on a particular idea/concept, i.e. the liturgical year, festivals and celebrations, within Christian and other faith traditions as well as our distinctive Christian values of love, respect and responsibility and celebrating achievements, good work and behaviour.

• Using a wide range of resources, devotional aids, artefacts (from religious and secular sources), music, art, drama and external speakers to engage children's interest.

• Encourage children to participate and experience different styles of worship, e.g. prayer, praise, silence, rituals, and become familiar with the language of worship, Biblical readings and liturgy.

• Providing opportunities for pupils to reflect, contemplate on their own thoughts, feelings and beliefs.

• Using the centrality of prayer – personal silent prayer, personal shared prayers, collective prayers, writing prayers. • Involving pupils and members of the wider community to participate in collective worship.

• Presenting and creating displays that promote and enhance spiritual ideas, thoughts and questions. Acts of Collective Worship are made distinctive through:

• 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.

Monitoring, Evaluation and Review

Monitoring of collective worship will be carried out jointly by the Head Teacher and SIAMS governor by:

• Conducting occasional formal observations of collective worship and providing feedback.

• Observing children's attentiveness and level of interest.

• Seeking feedback from children, staff, parents, governors and visitors.

• Written observations, checking that practice matches planning.

• Holding discussions with colleagues.

The information gathered will be analysed in order to evaluate the quality and effectiveness of the collective worship at least annually (see SIAMS action plan)

Inclusion and Equal Opportunities

A daily act of collective worship is held for all children regardless of their background of culture or religion. Every effort is made by the school to involve all children unless withdrawn by their parents in accordance with the law.

Responsibilities

It is the responsibility of the Head Teacher and Governing Body to ensure a daily act of collective worship takes place. At St. Leonard's C E Primary School the Head Teacher and the RE Leader plan themes, invite and liaise with visiting speakers and monitor and evaluate collective worship.

Conclusion

At St. Leonard's C E Primary School, collective worship is highly valued and every effort is made to ensure that all children and staff take an active part in a high quality daily act of collective worship. Worship may contain many elements but at St. Leonard's we seek to specifically ensure that the act of collective worship is above all a spiritual experience.

Appendix

Church Links

St. Leonards C E Primary School actively encourages strong links with St Leonard's Church.

The vicar leads collective worship every term in the school for both KS1 and KS2.

The schools aims to participate in regular church services: these include Christmas, Harvest and Easter services.

KS2 classes visit the church for Holy Communion three times a year.

Liturgical Colours - One way of making a connection between the worship in school and that of the church is to use the cycle of liturgical colours, and the altar table in the hall reflects the colours of the Anglican Church's year and highlights the focus and theme of collective acts of worship, music and prayer.

Purple - Advent and from Ash Wednesday to the day before Palm Sunday White - Christmas Day to Candlemas, Easter Day to the Eve of Pentecost Red - Holy Week, Feast of Pentecost, between All Saints' Day and the First Sunday of Advent Green - Day after Candlemas to Shrove Tuesday, day after Pentecost to the eve of All Saints' Day

Organisation

Due to the size of our school hall the whole school are unable to meet for collective worship together. KS1 meet four times a week and KS2 meet four times a week, with worship in class on the remaining day.

Various people assist the Head Teacher in conducting whole school worship. The Senior Leadership Team regularly lead collective worship as do visiting guests from local churches, faiths and members of charitable organisations. On major festivals collective worship is held in St Leonard's Church.

Worship usually lasts 15 minutes but the length of collective worship may vary.

The following on-going daily pattern is generally followed:

Planning

Collective worship will be treated like any other part of the curriculum when it comes to matters of planning, delivery, resourcing and evaluation. Collective worship is planned around the schools three core values. An overarching theme is chosen for each term and weekly themes for each half term are developed from this and presented in a variety of ways.

Good worship happens where children are active participants, not passive spectators and this includes being involved in the planning, delivery and evaluation. In this way, the act of collective worship becomes their own, rather than something that is 'done to them'.

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 term, children will have had the opportunity to reflect on the theme from a variety of viewpoints. The content of the worship can include use of stories, poems, drama, songs, visual aids, prayers, moments of reflective silence, IWB, focal points, video presentations etc,

This pattern is flexible and on occasions it is recognised that teachers may feel that they need to respond to local or national events. All planning must be added to the collective worship file at the end of each term.

Each collective worship will include more than one of the following elements:

• Celebration of the major festivals of Christianity and other faiths.

• Presentation of Bible stories. • Topical matters from the news or locality.

• Appreciation of the natural world and human activity.

• Appreciation of the talents, achievements and work of ourselves and others.

• Visitors.

• Prayer in different forms, formal, children's own, silence and meditation. These might include praise, seeking forgiveness, asking on behalf of self or others and quiet reflection.

• Use of music.

• Use of appropriate artefacts and focal points.

• Participation by the children.

• Using responses, hymns and psalms for short acts of worship.

Management and organisation of resources

Resources and artefacts are available from the RE resource boxes. Other resources are kept in classes and the Library.

Checklist for Individual Acts of Worship

• Is it well planned and in keeping with the school's policy?

• Is it inclusive? Can anyone take part regardless of faith background or academic ability?

• Is there a focal point? eg a religious symbol such as a cross, candle, picture, painting or photograph?

• How effectively is the atmosphere created? Is the physical space and the space in the day marked as special through use of music, lighting, seating, singing etc?

• Is a spiritual stimulus provided? eg poetry, art, dance, news item, variety of cultures etc.

• Is time for personal reflection provided?

• Is time for a personal response given?