

# Collective Worship Policy



“My commandment is this: love one another just as I love you.” John 15 v 12

## **INTRODUCTION**

This policy reflects who we are as a school as described in our Vision and Mission statement below.

*At St. Luke's Halsall we value each person and believe that there is something extraordinary and wondrous in everybody as unique creations of God.*

*We aspire to let the love of Jesus run through all we do and are, so shaping us as a family of God, which enables everyone to grow and flourish, spreading His love to all those we meet through our service to others, now and always.*

*This empowers each one of us to live out and be challenged by our mission of,*

***'Inspiring lives, building futures together with Jesus'***

### **What is Collective Worship at St Luke's Halsall?**

At St Luke's Halsall we gather together daily as a school family to share in an act of collective worship. We endeavour to set our worship in a warm, caring and positive atmosphere reflecting the strong Christian ethos of our school. It is a very special time, valued by both children and staff.

In our collective worship we affirm and celebrate our **shared Christian values** and beliefs as well as recognising the **specialness of key multi-faith festivals**.

These Christian values are inspired by role models of faith- including the character and life of Jesus- who we want the children to aspire to follow as they grow and develop in their own faith and beliefs.

Our worship is inclusive, invitational and inspiring. We aim to 'Nourish those with faith, encourage those of other faiths and challenge those with no faith'. Our aim is for worship to have an impact beyond the classroom and encourage all children to 'Live life in all its fullness' and give them a sense of hope for the future. We follow a recognisable structure and as a Church of England school base our collective worship on Anglican traditions and identity.

We acknowledge the uniqueness of the individual, celebrate diversity, create a sense of shared values and of our common humanity within school, society and the wider world.

We aim to foster the spiritual, emotional, moral, social and cultural development of all those present, allowing individuals to reflect and respond freely and encouraging them to develop their own beliefs and faith.

### Policy Development

This policy was developed through a process of consultation with teaching staff, governors, the church and diocese.

It is based on agreed good practice and is in line with the 1988 Education Reform Act.

### Aims of our collective worship

- To help children to understand and develop empathy and care, tolerance and love for one another.
- To encourage an understanding of the Anglican tradition within the broader context of world-wide Christianity.
- To develop an understanding of, and a tolerance for, the beliefs of others through opportunities to explore a variety of faiths and their practices.
- To foster a sense of community and encourage a sense of responsibility towards other people and the environment.
- To enable them to reflect on their role as citizens of their local community, as well as global citizens.
- To allow children the opportunity for participation in a shared experience.
- To encourage attitudes of sensitivity and awe to the wonders and mysteries of the world.

### Entitlement

All children, whatever their race, gender, faith, age or ability, are fully included in our worship times.

Within the worship experience, books, materials and activities will be monitored to ensure that there is no race, faith or gender stereotyping within them.

All parents have the right to withdraw their children from collective worship.

### Organisation and delivery of collective worship

At St Luke's Halsall we have a daily act of collective worship for **all** the children.

- We have model for our weekly Collective Worship that everyone knows and it works well. This structure means it always happens and pupils and staff say it is a cherished part of our day together.
- Monday (a visitor from church will attend).

- Tuesday (class worship with pupil leaders. Their parents are invited half-termly).
- Wednesday (worship based on our half termly value).
- Thursday is our Head Teacher Praise Time and worship (drawing on our Heartsmart PSHE curriculum and world/national events).
- and finally, Friday is our Merits celebration worship time.

All children take part in class Christmas presentations at our church where the joyful message of the nativity is shared with families, staff and governors. We look forward to these wonderful annual events over two evenings.

The whole school and staff attend **church** to worship together with parents and friends and celebrate the major **Christian** festivals throughout the year and at the end of terms. These special services are led by the children and the talk is given by a clergy member or a special visitor.

### Variety of Delivery

We believe it is important that our act of worship has a **positive and celebratory atmosphere**. We try to ensure that this special time has a sense of peace and joy. This is created by appropriate music upon entering and leaving the hall. Our worship table is always central to what we do and a candle is lit whilst saying our special opening responses. We ensure that Christian Liturgy is central to our Worship with set openings and dismissals, known prayers, reference to Bible verses and responses with which the children are familiar. Our children are becoming more familiar with the concept of the Holy Trinity and we refer to The Father, The Son and the Holy Spirit in a way in which the children understand.

### Themes

Themes are developed to ensure a **rich and stimulating** termly worship programme. They are planned to allow for the major Christian festivals and also to enhance and develop them. Key festivals from other faiths are listed and built into our themes as appropriate. We use worship resources such as 'Roots and Fruits'. Children testify to enjoying the variety of delivery, styles, visitors and songs which we share. They particularly enjoy interactive worship times including role play and prayers. We ask children what they think about worship and this helps us to shape it. Over the year we ask classes to complete reflections on the weekly worshiping.

At St Luke's Halsall we feel it is important to allow for flexibility and spontaneity and that there will always be a need to respond to events affecting our school and national community.

### British Values

Our class values of friendship, forgiveness, trust, truthfulness, respect, perseverance, compassion and responsibility ensure that British Values are implicit and embedded in all that we do. This is part of our long-term plan to prepare our children for living in modern Britain where we value every individual person whether child or adult. We actively promote equality and diversity. It also means that we will promote through discussion, respect for democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance for those of different faiths. Evidence for this will come from work in classes as well as the work of our School Council and Ethos Group. We will challenge opinions or behaviours in anyone who does not uphold these values.

### Role of the Subject Leader

The role of the subject leader is as outlined in the post-holder's job description, but it is essentially to work alongside staff and the link governor to plan, implement, monitor, review and support the delivery of high-quality collective worship. The subject leader monitors the standards of collective worship by observation and through pupil interviews and he/she also monitors coverage by using our worship evaluations.

### Resources include:

- A rich selection of collective worship books.
- Suitable music for the various themes.
- Appropriate pictures and photographs.
- Suitable artefacts for each theme will be used as appropriate.
- A Focus Table in each classroom
- Central Table in the hall.

### Staff Development

The RE subject leader and staff identify resource needs and training opportunities to enrich collective worship, by developing staff skills and competencies, through appropriate courses and/or staff development time.