



Collective Worship policy

Reviewed	2 yearly
This Version Dated	January 2026
Next Review Due	January 2028

Love – "...that you love one another as I have loved you...." John 13:34

Respect - " however you want people to treat you, so treat them,....." Matthew 7:12

Truth - "I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me" John 14:16.



“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

At St John's our Core Christian Values are **Love, Respect, Truth.**

Love

Through our core value of **Love** we recognise that we show a loving attitude when we put others before ourselves. God's love calls us to serve others freely without expectation of reward.

Truth

Through our core value of **Truth** we recognise that it takes courage to tell the truth and act with integrity. We show what we mean through our words and actions. Even when we are pressurised, or it is difficult, we find the courage to tell the truth.

Respect

Through our core value of **Respect** we recognise that the Holy Spirit comes alive in us when we value each other and celebrate our differences.

1. Worship and Collective Worship

- Christian worship is an honouring of God. Worship stems from personal experience; it is a central characteristic of faith communities, which are in relationship with God.
- 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.
- Collective worship is the daily gathering together of the school community whether whole or part of that community. It is not a lesson; it is an opportunity to reflect on what is of ultimate worth in people's lives, based on broadly Christian values.
- It will draw on a variety of sources including stories, readings, hymns or songs, drama and imagery. 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 God.

2. Aims of Collective Worship

- At its simplest, to create a time and space where we can come closer to God and God can come closer to us

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- To enable children to appreciate their worth and value to God, and to the community, and to respect the integrity of all individuals as a child of God
- To give memorable and enjoyable experiences.
- To provide an opportunity to celebrate Christian beliefs, celebrations, traditions and religious festivals in the Church's year.
- To enable pupils to make effective use of silence in opportunities for reflection, contemplation and prayer.
- To establish, explore, and reinforce the common Christian values
- To provide children with a vocabulary of worship and an experience of a wide variety of worship forms, including symbols and imagery.

3. How we achieve these aims

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 such as lighting the candle and reciting an opening prayer;

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

Exploring – Using the Christian faith to explore the theme of the worship. This could be through bible stories, quotes, the stories of significant people's lives or key events;

Responding - Ensuring there is time and opportunity for individual and/or 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

- We expect Collective Worship to involve all members of the school community and invite members of the wider community to support and lead our worship;
- The themes of collective worship are planned on a three-yearly cycle and cover Christian values, Bible stories, significant people and wider learning values (see appendix 1)
- We use the skills and gifts of all in the school community to develop worship that can be active, noisy or silent;
- We involve pupils in reviewing collective worship.

4. Promoting spirituality

Spiritual development is concerned with developing the non-material aspects of life, focusing on personal insight, values, meaning and purpose. It is about awe and wonder, asking question, self-reflection, inspiration and being aware of 'something greater' than ourselves. Beliefs that help provide perspective on life may be rooted in a religion, but equally may not.

Collective Worship is one of the opportunities we use to develop children's understanding of spirituality. To support this we use, the concepts from Liz Mill's work "Windows, Mirrors and Doors".

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Windows – Beauty – looking out into the world

For looking out onto the world and becoming aware of its wonders, both the 'wows; and 'ows'; things that are 'awe-full' and make us wonder and be grateful and things that are 'awful' and make us wonder and ask questions. Developing children's capacity to value the natural world and the commitment to care for creation.



Mirrors – Self – looking into a mirror

For looking into and reflecting, alone and together, to see things more clearly, for thinking and asking important question learning from our own and each other's responses. Developing their understanding of, and making sense of, their own feelings and emotions around certain events.

Doors – opening the door to welcome people.

Opening the door to welcome people; their feelings and beliefs. Developing an awareness of, and respect for, other people's beliefs and faiths as well as understanding the value of difference and diversity through involvement of others. Developing empathy amongst our children and a desire to response to what they have learnt whether that be by taking action or simply changing their behaviour.



5. Organisation of collective worship

- We normally hold a daily act of collective worship in our school.
Monday: whole School collective worship (led by head teacher)
Tuesday: Class Collective Worship or Whole School
Wednesday: Singing Worship
Thursday: Key stage worship led by members of the team
Friday: Celebration Worship
- Members of the Basingstoke Church, Rising Generations team, lead our school worship at least twice a month and are involved in any services held in their churches.
- 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.
- We have a regular programme of services, led by the children, at All Saints Church, typically at Harvest, Christmas, Easter and a Leavers' Service. All children participate and parents are invited to attend.

6. Right of withdrawal

- 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.
- The head teacher keeps a record of all children who are withdrawn from worship by their parents.

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7. Monitoring and review

- Governors are encouraged to attend any act of collective worship as part of the programme of Governor Visits;
- Pupils are included in review and development of collective worship.

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Appendix 1: Worship Overview Plan

St John's Assembly Yearly Overview

	Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
Year 1	Core Christian Values: Love, Respect & Truth	Wider Values: Learning	Bible Theme: Prayer (& Lord's Prayer)	Bible Theme: Miracles of Jesus	Global Citizenship: Justice <i>(Roots and Fruits)</i>	Global Citizenship: Generosity <i>(Leicester Diocese Spring 2017 & Roots and Fruits)</i>
Year 2		Wider Christian Values: Relationships	Bible Theme: Parables of Jesus <i>(Guildford Diocese)</i>	Bible Theme: A Glimpse of the Kingdom <i>(Guildford Diocese)</i>	Global Citizenship: Stewardship	Global Citizenship: Community
Year 3		Wider Christian Values: Love is... <i>(Leicester Diocese Spring 2017)</i>	Bible Theme: The Big Story of the Bible <i>(Leicester Diocese Autumn 2016)</i>		Global Citizenship: Compassion <i>(Roots and Fruits)</i>	Global Citizenship: Heroes of Faith

St John's Assembly Blank Half-Termly Overview

	Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
Week 1	New Start		New Beginnings & Epiphany	Lent		Trinity / Whitsun
Week 2	Love	Remembrance				
Week 3	Love				SATS week – class assemblies	
Week 4	Respect					
Week 5	Respect	Advent			Pentecost	
Week 6	Truth	Christmas <i>(Incarnation)</i>		Holy Week & Easter		
Week 7	Harvest	Christmas				
Week 8	One World Week					Moving On

Themes to stay for every year

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