



Collective Worship policy

Reviewed	2 yearly
This Version Dated	April 2023
Next Review Due	April 2025

Love – “Let all that you do be done in Love” 1 Corinthians 16:14

Respect - “Therefore, however you want people to treat you, so treat them, for this is the Law and the Prophets” Matthew 7:12

Truth - “I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me” John 4:16.



“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

Love – “Let all that you do be done in Love” 1 Corinthians 16:14

Respect - “Therefore, however you want people to treat you, so treat them, for this is the Law and the Prophets” Matthew 7:12

Truth - “I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me” John 4:16.

- 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. 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
- Once a year, we aim to hold a whole school Eucharist led by the vicar of All Saints' Church, and assisted by pupils.

- 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.

5. 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.

6. 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.

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

Love – “Let all that you do be done in Love” 1 Corinthians 16:14

Respect - “Therefore, however you want people to treat you, so treat them, for this is the Law and the Prophets” Matthew 7:12

Truth - “I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me” John 4:16.