

# ***COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY***

The official recorded Aim Statement of the school reads:

To provide the kind of working environment within the school

Where every person is valued and respected, and is able to develop fully, irrespective of age, sex or position and to have fun in so doing

## **Objectives**

- To celebrate the major Christian festivals in a manner consistent with the tenets of the Church of England, but appropriate to the faith/no faith background of our pupils.
- To offer experiences and opportunities which allow children to explore aspects of worship and encourage a development of the spiritual dimension of the child's life.
- To teach the value of reflection, and introduce children to the practice of prayer.
- To provide opportunities for the exploration of a wide range of social, environmental and interpersonal issues in the context of a moral framework (taking account of the needs of others), so that they may make a more considered response to those issues.

All Saints C of E Infant School is a Voluntary Aided School, and as such, the following requirements apply:

- All pupils in attendance shall on each school day take part in an act of collective worship unless the parent requests that s/he be wholly or partly excused from attendance a religious worship in school.
- The daily act of collective worship shall be consistent with the faith and practice of the Church of England, and the basic curriculum required by law in the school shall include religious education consistent with the faith of the Church of England.
- Use should be made of the Parish Church or other Church of England place of worship both for occasional acts of collective worship and for religious education.
- The character of the school as a voluntary school should be preserved and developed in accordance with the provisions of the trust deed.

## **School admissions policy:**

Aims of school worship

- To affirm our identity as a Church of England School.
- To be inclusive, encouraging a sense of unity and identity.
- To celebrate being part of God's world.

## **All Saints C of E Infant School & Nursery Unit**

- To acknowledge and celebrate diversity in race and culture
- To provide time for silence, stillness and reflection
- To invite children to share and develop their personal faith experiences
- To enjoy a variety of forms of Christian worship
- To affirm and reflect Christian values and principles

### **Participation in School worship**

Worship is an important feature of the life of the school and this is made clear to parents who seek a place at the school for their child/ren. We seek to include all staff and children as far as possible, in terms of attendance at, participation in, and leadership of school worship. Indeed, we would feel that such was the children's entitlement.

It is sometimes difficult, and unhelpful, to draw too clear a distinction between Acts of Collective Worship, and assemblies. We generally call our gatherings assemblies but there is always worship "component". There are other features of the assembly which serve other objectives which may not be dedicated worship activities, but which serve our aims as outlined above, e.g. celebrations, acknowledging achievement, welcoming others to share with us. We hope that all of our children will be able to join us for the majority of these assemblies.

Parents are always invited to attend Friday morning assemblies, which generally include an act of worship, and any special festival services held at other times.

If parents wish to withdraw their child/ren from acts of worship, full discussion takes place with the class teacher, headteacher and parents, in order to minimise the child's possible feelings of isolation and difference, and to make suitable arrangements for supervision.

### **The planning framework**

A focus for our acts of worship is agreed by all staff at the beginning of each year. Currently a two-year cycle of themes is being used to provide consistency across the school, and to ensure that some aspects of spiritual, moral, social and cultural development are reflected in our worship. As far as helpful, possible and appropriate, further assemblies which develop this theme are taken throughout the week. The worship opportunities in each assembly centre on the stated theme or some other aspect relevant to the appropriate topic. This allows for some spontaneity and flexibility in order to respond to current issues or children's needs.

In addition to whole-school gatherings, the children meet as a class, and as a phase or key stage.

## **All Saints C of E Infant School & Nursery Unit**

The worship themes cycle has been in place for some years now and is regularly reviewed against the following criteria:

- Appropriateness for our children
- Meets legal and Diocesan requirements
- Suitable for the promotion of the school's Christian ethos
- Supportive of the school's RE curriculum
- Provides a variety of format, focus and experience for our children
- Invites participation
- The calendar of themes for the focus of worship is included as Appendix 1

In addition to the main themes outlined, the children are invited to attend Christingle services at our church.