

LAVANT C.E. PRIMARY SCHOOL



COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

Reviewed: Spring 2021
Review: Spring 2024

Introduction

As a church school our worship is a special time when we meet together to explore our school values, reflect on our spiritual journey, and celebrate God's love and creation. It is about affirming the equality of each individual in God's sight, regardless of gender, ethnic background, physical or mental ability. It is central to developing our Christian ethos as a church school.

Statutory Duty

All maintained schools provide daily *collective worship* for registered pupils (apart from those withdrawn by parents). Collective worship will comply with the legal requirements in accordance with the principles and practices of the Church of England. It can take place at any time of the day and should be on school premises.

Assembly will be concerned with administration matters and announcements about school life.

Right of Withdrawal

We expect all children to attend assembly. 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. Teachers also have the right to withdraw from acts of collective worship (section 385/356 Education Acts 1966).

Aims

Alongside our school values

- To provide an opportunity for pupils to meet together as a whole school.
- To provide an opportunity to reflect and to celebrate.
- To introduce children to religious worship in a meaningful and honest way
- To enable those pupils who want to worship God to do so
- To encourage and develop a sense of community in the school reinforcing the aims and ethos and celebrating the ideals and values of the school

Organisation

In order for collective worship to be effectively delivered, careful preparation, organisation and use of time is necessary. Themes are discussed and chosen by the Head teacher, Collective Worship Leader, Rector and Foundation Governor and collective worship club on a term by term basis. Songs are chosen in conjunction with the Music Leader, staff and children.

A new theme is introduced by the Headteacher at the beginning of the week and it is then explored through a variety of media such as music, film, story, drama or poetry. All teachers play a part in worship during the year and the Rector leads an act of worship each week (see Church assembly). All members of the school staff are welcome to join in school worship. Parents are invited to attend some assemblies, for example weekly Church assembly and class assemblies and on other special occasions e.g. Harvest, Easter and Christmas.

Themes for Collective Worship

The weekly themes consider the age, interests and experience of the children and include:

- Diocesan Christian Values
- The broad traditions of Christian belief
- Knowledge of the Christian year
- Prayer
- The Bible
- An appreciation and wonder of the world in which we live
- The example of great lives given in the service of others.
- Love and consideration for others
- Appropriate content from the RSHE curriculum.
- School Values and Lavant Learning Qualities

Acts of Collective Worship

The structure of an act of worship should include the following elements:

- Reflective entrance of children
- A focal point e.g. a candle, a picture, praying hands
- Singing
- Prayers
- Reading/story/poem/drama/film
- Music
- Time for reflection

There should be the following throughout:

- A theme
- A purpose/life application
- Spiritual Dimension
- A time of awe and wonder
- Strong moral and Christian principles

Weekly Programme

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Whole School Assembly led by HT	Assembly led by DHT	Hymn Practice Teacher led / Music Leader	Church Assembly/ Class Assembly	Whole School Celebration Assembly.

Church Assembly

Every Thursday the Rector leads an act of collective worship for the whole school community. Parents, grandparents etc. are welcome to attend. During this service classes bring together sections of the school cross to show unity as a Christian school.

Monitoring and Evaluation

It is the role of the Foundation Team including the Head teacher, Foundation governors and Collective Worship Leader to monitor the policy and practice of collective worship within school. Governors have an open invitation to attend acts of Collective Worship and every half term a selection of children and staff, participate in an evaluative process. Parents, Staff and Governors are also encouraged to contribute reflective comments regarding collective worship on a regular basis. These are analysed and fed back to Collective Worship Club and Foundation Team so that action can be taken in line with our School's aims and Christian Principles.

Collective Worship Club - are the pupil voice for Collective Worship they;

- meet weekly (see collective worship club notebooks recording meetings)
- are responsible for the Collective Worship Club board
- help plan assembly themes with foundation governors
- nominate children to be awarded a certificate for displaying Christian qualities
- take part in assemblies; praying, writing and performing sketches, readings
- plan whole school initiatives that celebrate our Christian initiatives

Reflective areas

Our recently developed (with much help from our school community and Friends) Reflective Garden in the school grounds provides another great opportunity for quiet contemplative reflection. Many symbolic activities are placed there for children to enjoy. These include; a water feature, prayer net, prayer tree, a clay plaque created by the children, a quiet hut with beanbags, decorated pebbles with key words and symbols to promote reflection.

The hall has a reflective area which includes a prayer box which the Rector includes in his prayer in our weekly church assembly.

Each class has a reflective area which has a Bible, cross and other symbolic objects which enable/prompt children to take time to reflect in the course of a busy day.

Resources

- Prayer books
- Candle
- Praying hands
- Prayer box
- Collective Worship guides including "Values" folder
- Bibles, NIV Good News, Dramatised Bible, Action Bible, Youth Bibles
- Story Books

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Next Review date Spring 2024