

LAVANT C.E. PRIMARY SCHOOL



COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

Date: March 2024
Review: March 2027

Responsibility of Head Teacher
Governor Responsibility: Foundation Team

Lavant CE Primary is an inclusive and ambitious school at the heart of the local community. Our vision is to inspire and support every child (and adult) to aim for and achieve their very best, loving one another and '**living life in all its fullness**' (John 10:10).

Our aims are to:

Provide inspirational real life learning experiences which challenge, engage and motivate within a creative, inclusive Christian environment.

Nurture reflective learners who have a sense of responsibility, humility and respect.

Encourage effective, purposeful collaboration between individuals, who understand the importance of their contribution to local and global communities.

Foster a life-long love of learning where individuals accept challenges and take risks with the perseverance to adapt and aspire.

Introduction

We gather together to:

- provide an opportunity for pupils to meet together as a whole school
- provide an opportunity to reflect and to celebrate
- introduce children to religious worship in a meaningful and honest way
- enable those pupils who want to worship God to do so
- provide the opportunity to learn from the Bible
- to develop children's understanding of the teachings of Jesus and how this shows Christians how to live
- encourage and develop a sense of community in the school reinforcing the aims and ethos and celebrating the ideals and values of the school
- encourage children to be their best selves in their wider lives

Collective Worship

As a church school our collective worship is a special time when we meet together to share what is meaningful and significant in our lives. It is a time to 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 builds up our common life and develops and reinforces our school ethos and philosophy. While the majority of acts of worship in our school are Christian, we also hold assemblies that reflect other religious traditions that are represented in the school and the wider community.

Legal Requirements

Collective worship at Lavant CE Primary School comply with the legal requirements set down in the Trust Deed of the school which is in accordance with the principles and practices of the Church of England. It can take place at any time.

Right of Withdrawal

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

Organisation of Collective worship

Our themes are broadly Christian but include topics relating to values and spirituality. We hold a daily act of collective worship. Sometimes the whole assembly is an act of worship; alternatively, worship forms part of a whole-school assembly.

We conduct our worship in a dignified and respectful way, but inject fun and excitement to engage all. We teach children that worship time is a period of calm reflection. We regard it as a special time and expect children to behave in an appropriate way. We ask them to be quiet and thoughtful and to listen carefully to the teaching. Children are invited and encouraged to participate fully in prayer and hymns, but they know and understand that this is a personal choice.

Collective worship is carefully planned to be accessible by all. Thought is given to SEND need, especially any visual or hearing impaired children, ensuring their access and engagement in all aspects of worship.

We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music and a variety of visual stimulation. Older children are responsible for preparing the school hall to be used as a worship space.

As we gather for worship, a child representative from each class places a physical representative of one of the earth's elements at the front of the hall to form a cross. This is a special moment symbolising our coming together as one in God's presence.

New themes are introduced by the Headteacher and are then explored through a variety of media such as music, story, drama or poetry. All teachers play a part in leading worship during the year and the Lavant Church Family and Children's Worker leads an act of worship weekly. All members of the school staff are welcome to join in school worship. Parents are invited to attend some assemblies and significant Christian festivals e.g. Harvest, Easter and Christmas, for which we worship in St Nicholas or St Mary's Church, Lavant. These services are led by our Rector.

Weekly Programme

Monday	Whole School worship led alternately by Bishop Luffa Students and 'Open the Book' Team from Chichester Baptist Church
Tuesday	Whole school worship led by the Head teacher
Wednesday	Sung worship practice led by Deputy HT /Teacher led
Thursday	Church led worship
Friday	Whole School Celebration.

Themes for Collective Worship

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

- Our school vision and values
- The broad traditions of Christian belief
- The teachings of Jesus and scripture and how this directs Christian living
- Knowledge of the Christian year
- An appreciation and wonder of the world in which we live
- The example of great lives given in the service of others
- Consideration of other faiths and world views
- Links to our PSHCE / RHSE curriculum

Key elements of worship

Each act of collective worship in our school consists of some or perhaps all of the following elements:

- Orderly entrance and exit of children
- A focal point e.g. a candle, a picture, a display linked to the theme
- Singing
- Prayers
- Reading/story/poem/drama
- Music
- Time for reflection

Any notices should be given out at the beginning or very end of assembly so as not to detract from the key messages introduced in the theme.

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

Worship Team

Our Worship Team are volunteers from across Key Stage two. They contribute to the planning and leading of worship areas and prayer spaces, as well as the implementation and

evaluation of worship. The children take this role very seriously and understand its importance and value with regard to our school ethos.

Reflective areas

Our Quiet 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, 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 are offered to God in our weekly church led worship.

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.

Evaluation, Monitoring and Review

All teachers are involved in the ongoing evaluation of worship and assemblies and children are given frequent opportunity to do so also, in a variety of ways.

It is the role of the Headteacher, along with the Foundation Governors to monitor the policy and practice of collective worship within school. Governors are given the opportunity to regularly attend acts of Collective Worship and regular monitoring takes place.

Policy reviewed	Spring 2024
Next Review date	Spring 2027