



St. Luke's

Collective Worship Policy

Agreed by the Governing Board: September 2019

Last review: February 2023

Next review: March 2026

The Department of Education says that through Collective Worship schools should aim to:

Provide the opportunity for pupils to worship God, to consider spiritual and moral issues and to explore their own beliefs;

To encourage participation and response, whether through active involvement in the presentation of worship or through listening to and joining in the worship offered;

and to develop community spirit, promote a common ethos and shared values, and reinforce positive attitudes. *Circular number 1/94 Religious Education and Collective Worship*

Readers are also referred to:

<https://churchofengland.org/media/1244326/qs%20and%20as%20re%20collective%20worship.pdf> for further clarification.

St. Luke's school motto: 'Hearts over flowing with truth and love'

Our Vision

We are a Christian school community that seeks to instil a lifelong love of learning. Our core values inspire and prepare our children to lead successful and fulfilling lives.

Our Mission

St. Luke's is a caring Church of England Primary School that is committed to supporting our pupils to be happy, successful, generous and fulfilled throughout their lives. We believe that each of us is unique and valued by God—all made in his image. And so we aspire to provide an outstanding education for all. We do this by:

- **Promoting the highest standards of teaching and learning, with excellent leadership**
- **Being inclusive, celebrating diversity including all religions, faiths, cultures and backgrounds**
- **Providing a rich and stimulating curriculum that will inspire and challenge all our learners**
- **Being a safe, healthy and happy place**
- **Providing excellent care, guidance and support**
- **Having a strong partnership between school, parents and the community**

We seek to promote core values within our children that will prepare them for a successful life. They should be:

- Hardworking, showing **enthusiasm** for their learning and striving towards high personal standards and **excellence** in all that they do;
- **Kind** and **respectful** with excellent manners;
- Co-operative and collaborative, developing strong **partnerships** for learning, personal and spiritual growth and development;
- **Honest** and trustworthy treating others **fairly** and **safely**;
- Resilient and determined, showing great **courage** and a willingness to take **responsibility** for the impact that they have on others;
- Highly principled with moral, spiritual, cultural and social awareness, including shared British Values.

School aims of worship

"The Church school offers a distinctive language for understanding life and interpreting human experience. As a community of faith, the Church school should, in its best expression, reflect the nature of the Trinity, a life shared and defined by reference to others. Here we can begin to discover who we are, why we are, and – perhaps most importantly – what we might be"

(The Way Ahead: Church of England schools in the new millennium Archbishop's Council 2001)

Worship in our school

Our school holds a daily act of collective worship. Our Collective Worship is:

Inclusive

Our Collective Worship is inclusive of, and fully accessible to all. In our community, we have people of Christian faiths, other faiths and no faith. We also recognise that our staff and children will be at different stages of their spiritual journey whilst they are in our school. As such, we will avoid assuming faith in all, but will instead invite all participants to think and ask questions.

We will value the range of experiences that children bring to the Collective Worship. Children and staff will be involved in planning, leading and evaluating worship, and are therefore active participants in this core of our school and community.

Invitational

We celebrate the cultural diversity of all the members of our school and seek to have a cohesive community. Whilst Collective Worship will always reflect the Christian ethos of our school, we respect and acknowledge the variety of religious observances which are represented in our school and within the wider community.

All members of our community are invited to participate in Collective Worship at St. Luke's whether they are Christians or not. Whilst present, they do not have to do anything, but they will always be invited to take part with integrity. Children and adults will always be invited to take part in prayer if they wish to and to pray in their own way. At St. Luke's we recognise this diversity of practice.

Music and liturgies used in worship will reflect the best of traditional and modern Anglican worship. Music used will reflect the diverse worship experience of the wider Christian community.

Inspiring

We seek to ensure that all Collective Worship is inspirational. Our worship will seek to be formational and transformational: we hope it will enable pupils and adults to ask big questions about who we are and why we do what we do. We hope it will motivate pupils and adults into action, into thinking differently, and into reflecting on their and the wider community's behaviour and actions. In particular at St. Luke's we hope that children and adults will learn that our values are important, not just for ourselves, but also to enhance our impact upon each other. We hope as a result of inspirational collective worship, our children and adults will be inspired to become courageous advocates of causes. We hope that everyone who takes part will think searchingly about their faith and beliefs.

Through Collective Worship we celebrate God as Creator, Jesus as the Son of God and the work of the Holy Spirit in the lives of believers. The importance of the Bible and the Church as the foundations of Christianity are also celebrated. Shared values such as fairness, responsibility, kindness and honesty enrich the daily act of worship. In the entrance foyer, visitors, parents and children are welcomed by a display – specifically related to the themes of worship for that term.

The pattern of Collective Worship

Our acts of worship reflect the Christian year and follow a carefully developed schedule.

Mr. Griffiths, in partnership with Father Tom, develops a schedule for Collective Worship that seeks to educate the children in the stories of the Bible, both Old Testament and New. It also seeks to enable the children to have an increasing understanding of the key Christian Concepts. The schedule seeks to enable the children to interpret the school's values within the context of the Scripture and consideration is given to the children developing a broad appreciation of the Gospel of St. Luke. The schedule also seeks to make sure that the children are educated about key events and celebrations that happen during the year, as well as the causes behind any fundraising that the school engages with.

This schedule changes annually, to provide for continuity and variety.

An example of a schedule for Collective Worship can be found in **Appendix 1** of this document.

The pattern of worship for Years 1 - 6 each week is as follows:

- **Monday:** Father Tom leads Collective Worship. This Collective Worship will take the form of a Mass, sometimes in school and other times in Church, during which confirmed children and staff may partake in Communion and other staff and children are encouraged to receive a Blessing.
- **Tuesday:** The Headteacher or another school leader leads our act of Collective Worship taking every opportunity to deepen children's understanding of the school's values in action and their impact on others.
- **Wednesday:** Father Tom leads our act of worship with a focus on developing the children's repertoire of hymns whilst at the same time deepening the children's experience of many of our values including excellence and partnership;
- **Thursday:** A class act of worship is taken when the children celebrate their achievements as a class with staff, parents/ carers and the whole school. If we do not have a class for the week, the classes are provided with content for a Collective Worship to take place in class.
- **Friday:** A senior leader leads the act of worship which provides a special time to share and celebrate achievement in line with the school's values that week as well as House and Attendance awards.

As appropriate, different leaders may lead our act of worship on a Tuesday so that the children experience a variety of leadership and input; this may include other teachers and leaders in the school as well as visitors to the school. Visitors will be very carefully briefed as to what the worship entails. They will also be asked to sign our 'Agreement and Guidelines for Visiting Speakers' which can be found in our Visiting Speaker's Policy. In all acts of worship, the school will retain overall control.

During the Summer term, in anticipation of transition to Year 1, the Reception children increasingly become involved in whole school acts of worship.

While St Luke's is a Church of England school, we are committed to respecting individual beliefs. Upon entrance to the school, parents/ carers are made aware of the Christian basis of our teaching. It is therefore unlikely that parents/ carers would wish to exercise their legal right of withdrawal. However, should such a case arise, the parents/ carers concerned should consult the Head teacher.

We celebrate the major Christian festivals throughout the year by attending our Parish Church, Christ Church. Parents and carers are invited to join us. These include Harvest, Christmas, Candlemas, Ash Wednesday, and Holy Week/ Easter.

Procedures

Children are expected to come into the school hall in silence, whilst appropriate music is played.

The act of worship is seen as providing a period of calm and reflection within the school day, for the whole school (and its wider community when appropriate).

A hymn, or age-appropriate song, may be sung during assembly. These are varied so as to ensure all age groups can participate. We have a resource of hymns and songs, which are practised regularly every Wednesday and displayed on a screen during assembly.

Our worship structure includes lighting candles to signify that this is a time for reflection and calmness. As the candles are lit, each day we celebrate Common Prayer by saying a different Blessing. Our Blessings, when taken altogether, tell of the key events in the Liturgical calendar. They are following a Jewish tradition of berakoth or prayers in which we bless God (not ourselves or each other) for the wonders he has done.

The table at the front of the hall is covered in a fabric, made by the children, and portraying different Christian symbols.

At the end, a variety of prayers written by adults or children may be used, and everyone concludes by saying the Lord's Prayer together.

The children are invited either to join in by saying "Amen" at the end, or reflecting on the mood of the assembly by being "still on the inside and still on the outside". The children leave Collective Worship in silence, again accompanied by music.

Prayer

We believe that prayer should encompass the following:

- P Praise
- S Sorry – for the things done wrong by us and others
- A Asking for things – for others and ourselves
- L Listening – to God
- M Meditating on the mystery of God and the wonder of Creation

We believe that prayer should come from the heart, but we also know that it has to be taught by example. It is corporate or individual and at its heart, it is communication between a believer and God.

Children are encouraged to write prayers in a variety of ways:

- Following guidance from Father Tom, the children write prayers for Collective Worship;
- The children write prayers to say at the end of the Class Act of Worship each Thursday;
- Each class has a Class Prayer book, and a prayer is selected to be shared from this, each morning;
- There is a prayer box in the main reception and near the headteacher's office for children and adults to contribute to.

Each class has a Bible, which is matched to the age/ needs of the children and given appropriate respect in the classroom. Teachers are asked to read from this regularly throughout the year during class story time each day.

Spiritual and Moral Development

Spiritual and moral development is a life-long process and in the life of the children, is shared between parents/ carers, the school and the wider community. We acknowledge the wide variety of beliefs that make up our community, however our policy reflects the Christian focus of our school.

Therefore, we seek to foster values and morals based on Christian teaching, which are also shared by the major world faiths. Key ideas and words that have been identified as being particularly appropriate when exploring spiritual and moral concepts and include the following:

- Life, birth, creation, death
- Sleep, refreshment, renewal
- Friendship, fidelity, love, passion, patience
- Imagination, inspiration, enlightenment
- Elation, delight, joy, gladness, laughter
- Sorrow, sadness, grief, reconciliation, forgiveness, self-control
- Injustice, pain, suffering, anger, courage, shame, guilt
- Kindness, gratefulness
- Pity, compassion
- Wonder, awe, reverence, adoration
- Splendour, beauty, perfection
- Stillness, calm, peace, silence, tranquillity, harmony
- Light, darkness
- Eternity, mystery, infinity
- Hope, dream, fact, fantasy
- Insight, intuition, belief, faith, trust
- Truth, certainty, uncertainty, proof

Poems, stories, paintings, photographs, natural objects, and music are some of the ways that children can be encouraged to be thoughtful and reflective.

Planning for Worship

The worship planning informs members of staff of the focus each week. It is agreed between the Head teacher, Father Tom and Mr. Griffiths each year and is informed by the guidance provided by the LDBS.

Monitoring and Record Keeping

The impact of acts of worship is kept under regular review. The School Council provide feedback on what is working well and what improvements they would like to see. Additionally, classes are invited to use opportunities, particularly during class worship, to reflect and offer their views to the headteacher and school leaders as feedback.

Leavers

Each year, a special service for leavers takes place with the other Deanery Schools. Leavers involved in celebrating their schools and their achievements as well as having the opportunity to meet other children moving on to the same schools. They are reminded that the Church (as well as the school) will continue to be there for them in the years that lie ahead.

Appendix 1: An example of a schedule of Collective Worship – overleaf

Appendix 2: After that, please see feedback from our children

Value of the week	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
9 th January	Epiphany Church Service	Introduction to Celebration of	Singing Collective Worship One more step along the	In class collective worship on Celebration of Truth and Love	Enthusiasm

Enthusiasm		Truth and Love – Father Ed	world I go Make me a channel of your peace When I needed a neighbour		
16 th January Joy in discovering Jesus for the first time Being thankful for others Responsibility	John 1:29-42 John the Baptist's role was as a forerunner, preparing the arrival of the Messiah. His role had been foretold by the prophets who had gone before. John proclaimed that Jesus was the lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world. When John said this he was drawing on centuries of Jewish practice. Lambs were sacrificed every day at the Temple to atone for the sins of the previous day, and Jewish people would have remembered the lambs that were sacrificed to save them from the angel of death on the night they fled from slavery in Egypt (Passover). Andrew heard what John said about Jesus and told his brother Simon (Peter) Hymns One more step along the world I go Make me a channel of your peace When I needed a neighbour	Celebration of Truth and Love - Father Ed	Singing Collective Worship 4-6 Your love is amazing https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MLkDWtGpETs Let there be love shared among us https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8HlhGMSxsCO Make me a channel of your peace	Cherry Class Assembly What are you thankful for? Why are these things important to you? Who could you go out of your way to say thank you to this week? Do you ever thank God for anything or anyone? Tell me more!	Responsibility
23 rd January All are invited into God's kingdom Unity, overcoming divisions Partnership	Matthew 4:12-23 John the Baptist had been put in prison by Herod Antipas (John had publicly criticised Herod for his marriage to his brother's wife). Jesus started preaching (fulfilling prophecy) and he called his first disciples to follow him. These first disciples were fishermen. Hymns Your love is amazing https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MLkDWtGpETs Let there be love shared among us https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8HlhGMSxsCO Make me a channel of your peace	Christian Concept 2 (Creation)	Singing Collective Worship 1-3 Thank you Lord for this new day; The Lord's my shepherd; Bell of creation	Have you ever fallen out with someone? How did you feel? What do you need to do when you fall out with someone if you want to repair the relationship? What do you think Jesus meant when he said to the first disciples, "I will send you out to fish for people?"	Partnership
30 th January God's provision in times of trouble Being generous to others Kindness	John 2:1-11 Jesus' first miracle is at a wedding. The wine had run out, which would normally have brought a great deal of embarrassment. However, Jesus turned the water, that was in large jars, into the best wine. The ordinary was transformed into the extraordinary. The presence of God made all the difference. Hymns Thank you Lord for this new day; The Lord's my shepherd; Bell of creation	Air Ambulance – School Council	Singing Collective Worship 4-6 Let there be love shared among us Spirit of God as strong as the wind Your love is amazing	Have you ever donated food to a food bank or helped someone who was going through a time of trouble? Why?/What happened? Have you ever been on the receiving end of someone else's generosity? Tell me more! How do you think the widow and the bride and bridegroom felt when they saw the miracle? Do you believe God provides for people? Why/why not? In what ways do you think God might provide for people?	Kindness
6 th February Shining as a light/being salt for God Recognising God's light in others Challenge	Matthew 5:13-20 This reading is taken from the Sermon on the Mount, a collection of Jesus' teachings. Salt and light are agents of change. Jesus challenged his followers not only to be agents of change but to also lead others to God through what they have seen his followers doing. Hymns Let there be love shared among us Spirit of God as strong as the wind Your love is amazing	Aspiration	Singing Collective Worship 1-3 Here I am to worship Shine Jesus Shine Make me a channel of your peace	Spruce Class Assembly Salt is a very ordinary thing but how many of its uses can you list? What do you think Jesus meant when he told his followers to be salt and light? What would this look like?	Respect

to live justly, and with compassion for others					
Respect					
20 th February Repentance (more than being sorry – it's sorry enough to turn round, in Christianity it is turning back to God's ways)	Singing CW in Class Here I am to worship Shine Jesus Shine Make me a channel of your peace	Christian Concept 3 (Fall) - Amelia	Church service Ash Wednesday Year 1 – 3 9:15-10:00 Year 4 – 6 10:15-11:00 Hymns Here I am to worship Shine Jesus Shine Make me a channel of your peace	Aspen Class Assembly Do you find it easy or difficult to say sorry when you have done something wrong? Why do you think this is?	Safety
Safety					
27 th February Jesus overcame temptation	Matthew 4:1-11 Jesus went into the wilderness where he fasted for forty days and nights. Jesus was tempted by Satan three times: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To win popularity, by providing bread from stones To have political world power To misuse his power to prove he was the Messiah Jesus rebutted the Devil's temptations, this will not be the only time he is tempted, but he lent into God's word and plan for his life, to strengthen him to face what was coming. Hymns Here I am to worship Shine Jesus Shine Make me a channel of your peace	What is World Book Day About? – Amy and Naomi	Singing Collective Worship 4-6 Lord of all hopefulness We are marching in the light of God Let there be love shared among us	Have you ever fasted or given up something either for Lent or some other time? What were the challenges and temptations you faced? When you are tempted to do something or say something you shouldn't how do you overcome that temptation? Jesus used words of scripture to resist temptation. How can the Bible help you?	Courage
Courage					
6 th March Faith in Jesus Faith Having questions is OK!	John 3:1-17 The religious leaders are often portrayed as anti-Jesus. Nicodemus was a Jewish religious leader and he visited Jesus in secret, at night to ask lots of questions. Despite his knowledge of the Hebrew scriptures, he had not understood their message. Jesus referred to an event during the Jews time in the wilderness when Moses held aloft a bronze snake and all who were ill looked at it and were healed. In the same way all who 'look' in faith to Jesus, lifted up on the cross are promised salvation. Hymns Lord of all hopefulness We are marching in the light of God Let there be love shared among us	Christian Concept 4 (People of God) –	Singing Collective Worship 1-3 Shine Jesus Shine Here I am to worship The Lord is my shepherd	Oak Class Assembly What big questions would you like to ask God? What do you think He might answer?	Excellence
Excellence					
13 th March God's love for all people God's	John 4:5-42 The Samaritans were regarded by the Jews as enemies. In this account Jesus met a Samaritan woman collecting water from a well. She has probably been ostracised from the other women in her town because of her life choices.	Red Nose Day & Fundraising - Richard	Singing Collective Worship 4-6 Lord of all hopefulness We are marching in the light of God Spirit of God as strong as the	Lemon Class Assembly What's your favourite drink when you are really thirsty? What do you like about it?	Fairness

<p>salvation Hope (not wishful thinking)</p> <p>Fairness</p>	<p>It was unusual for a woman to be on her own collecting water. Jesus broke the social and religious conventions of the day by asking her for a drink. Jesus turned the conversation about water to the eternal life he could offer.</p> <p>Hymns Shine Jesus Shine Here I am to worship The Lord is my shepherd</p>		<p>wind</p>	<p>Jesus offers "living water" that quenches the woman's thirst for God. Do you ever feel thirsty for God? What is different about the living water Jesus offered?</p> <p>What difference do you think it makes to a person's life if they trust God to keep his promises?</p>	
<p>20th March</p> <p>Mothering Sunday Celebrating the women/ the people who care for us Families</p> <p>Respect</p>	<p>John 19:25-27 As Jesus' mother stood at the crucifixion, watching her son die, Jesus saw her and his disciple, John. He asked John to look after Mary and Mary to look after John, in a mother/son relationship.</p> <p>Hymns Lord of all hopefulness We are marching in the light of God Spirit of God as strong as the wind</p>	<p>Spring Music Concert?</p>	<p>Singing Collective Worship 1-3 Be bold be strong Father I place into your hands https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6T8759Wdg3U Come to the banquet</p>	<p>Who are the people who care for you? Who has had the influence for good in your life?</p> <p>If you were not so busy, who would you like to spend more time with?</p>	<p>Respect</p>

Appendix 2: Feedback from our children

Children enjoy collective worship when it is interactive.

SIAMs 2017 Report: Children say collective worship helps them 'think about the school's values and how to use them all every day'.... RE ambassadors speak about how the school's values and worship 'helps us think about our journey in the world' and 'how we can make a difference'.

I like how we all get to be entertained and we all get to be interactive- Scarlett Y4 Aspen

I like how we are informed before any events happen - Faizah Y6

I like watching class assemblies together - Gracie Y4

I like listening to why people have been nominated Elin Year 1

I like when the teachers tell us the reason why they nominated that person for the value. Anastasia Y3

I like showing respect to people who are getting nominated- Anchita Y1

I really like when we sing songs in collective worship because it gets me hyped up for the day in the morning and relaxes me in the afternoon Linda Y5

I like when we sing songs it makes me feel happy inside Hero Y2

My favourite thing about collective worship is singing and class assemblies - Emile Y6

I like to read the prayer. Chloe Y1