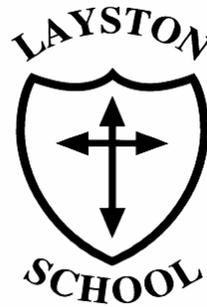




Layston C of E First School



Collective Worship Policy

Reviewed	July 2021
Next Revision Due	July 2023

Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed in full by the Governing Body bi-annually.

The policy was last reviewed and agreed by the Governing Body in September 2021

It is due for review in (up to 2 years from the above date) by the Governing Body.

SignatureA. McMurrugh.....
Head Teacher

Date21.9.21

SignatureM. Sleath.....
Vice Chair of Governors

Date....21.9.21.



BACKGROUND TO COLLECTIVE WORSHIP AT LAYSTON SCHOOL

Layston C of E First School is a Church of England Voluntary Controlled School. The legal requirement for church schools ensures that every child in the school is entitled to an opportunity for daily worship.

Worship is therefore an important part of the school day as it gives us the opportunity to come together as a school community to gather, engage, respond and reflect on God. It is attended by all students, staff and any visitors in school are very welcome to join in. In addition to daily school worship, key festivals in the Anglican tradition such as Harvest, Christmas and Easter and special celebrations such as the Leaver's Service take place at St Peter's on a regular basis.

Families who send their children to this school are in the main 'nominally' Christian, with some from practising Christian families. In addition, there are children who are from religions other than Christianity and some from non-religious backgrounds. We recognise that in asking our children to worship, we have to consider the background that our children come from and it is therefore not the practice of this school to preach to or convert the children. The faith background of both the staff and the child's family is respected at all times.

The head teacher is responsible (under the School Standards and Framework Act 1998) for arranging the daily collective worship after consulting with the governing body. Parents have a right to withdraw their children from collective worship. If a parent asks for their child to be wholly or partly excused from attending collective worship at the school the school must comply unless the request is withdrawn. Any parent who wishes to exercise this right should consult the head teacher.

OUR SCHOOL VISION

Our primary vision is to create a caring Christian community in which Christian values and beliefs permeate the whole of school life. Links with the church and community are vital, providing an ethos which results in a meaningful and unifying sense of purpose. In achieving the following aims, collective worship contributes in a significant way to the flourishing of all children, allowing them to live life in all its fullness (John 10:10).

'Loving to learn, learning to love, for every child a chance to shine.'

At Layston we believe in the reality of God in our lives and the Christian Values that guide and inspire us. We are bold in our application of Christianity to transform relationships and take the Gospel intent of '**love one another**' as a blue print for making active choices in our day-to-day lives together. We foster awe and wonder through a creative curriculum that underpins and promotes our love for learning. We are **inclusive** and **nurture** each person as a child of God with every chance to shine. Matthew 5:14-16 "...let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."

VALUES AND AIMS

We believe at this school that collective worship supports and strengthens what we aim to do in every aspect of school life. Our caring ethos and the value which we place on the development of the whole child spiritually, morally, socially, culturally, emotionally and intellectually, is reflected in our worship. We value this special time in the school day for the space it gives children to develop a reflective approach to life and the ability to express their reflections in a variety of ways.

Through our collective worship we aim to provide a caring and supportive environment for children to:

- offer opportunities to worship God;
- be inclusive, respect themselves and others and to foster compassion;
- learn about and reflect on Christian values and ethos of the school;
- reflect some of the practices and traditions of the local church;

- participate in prayer together;
- celebrate the values and worth of the school community;
- explore and develop their own spirituality and morality;
- appreciate and evaluate their own beliefs and those of others;
- deepen their sense of wonder about the world around them;
- respond freely to religious and/or spiritual stimulus;
- share worship with parents, governors and members of the local community;
- celebrate special occasions in the church's year and the life of the community;
- show appreciation for the God given gifts and talents of the school community.

Worship both reflects and nurtures the Christian ethos of the whole school. It encompasses all aspects of school life and all areas of the curriculum so that every member of staff and every pupil may feel involved. In particular school worship develops the feeling of belonging to a caring community which is essential for personal development and spiritual growth.

RESPONSIBILITY FOR COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

The governors hold overall responsibility for ensuring that the legal requirements for worship are met. The head teacher works with members of the school community and the local incumbent to write a plan of different themes for assembly to cover the school year. We have adopted the 'Christian Values Education' approach of focussing on a half termly value. Each value is introduced during collective worship and is the theme for this special time in the school day. The incumbent leads worship in school once a fortnight and hosts the school at St Peter's when we worship there together.

VALUES

Term	Half term value Year A	Half term value Year B
Autumn 1	Koinonia - community	Creation and stewardship
Autumn 2	Friendship and self-sacrifice	Peace and Justice
Spring 1	Courage, endurance, resilience	Wisdom
Spring 2	Thankfulness	Reverence
Summer 1	Agape - love	Compassion and forgiveness
Summer 2	Trust	Hope

PLANNING

Collective worship is treated like any other part of the curriculum when it comes to matters of planning, delivery, resourcing and evaluation.

To signal the beginning of our worship time together we light a candle with the words "We light this candle, to help us remember, that Jesus is the light of the world". For those who want, this can be amended to "We light this candle, to help us remember, that Jesus is a light in the world". The structure of our worship reflects the Anglican traditions of 'gathering, engaging, responding and sending' (GERS). We encourage a range of responses from the children including:

- Pupils' contributions;
- Sacred and secular stories/readings;
- Dance/drama;

- Prayer/meditation/songs/hymns/music;
- Artefacts/natural materials;
- Visual aids/focal points;
- Dialogue/creative silence;
- Visitors.

We reflect the church calendar in our use of liturgical colours on our worship table and entrance hall displays. Our Christian Values displays are to be found in all our public spaces as well as in each classroom. Prayer/reflection areas are a feature of all our learning areas and all our school community are encouraged to contribute to interactive displays.

Each half term there is a theme for collective worship based on one of the Christian Values. These are published at the beginning of the year and are integrated into the St Albans Diocese Collective Worship overview that informs planning. Those leading worship are encouraged to relate their worship to this theme. The themes chosen are broad enough to allow all those leading worships to approach the theme from their own perspective. This will mean that by the end of the week the pupils will have had the opportunity to reflect on the theme from a variety of viewpoints.

Alternatively, class teachers may develop their worship from themes and events that occur on the curriculum during the week. Weekly worship takes place as a Key Stage in the classroom. This pattern is flexible and on occasions it is recognised that teachers may feel that they need to respond to local or national events. Our incumbent and one of the school's Foundation Governors has a role monitoring collective worship at the school.

SONG/HYMNS/MUSIC

Songs and music are a very powerful means of creating the right atmosphere; it unifies and uplifts the school community. We have a bank of music from which to draw, taken from a variety of cultures and types. Likewise, with the hymns we sing. We select our songs/music carefully to match the theme.

PRAYER

We feel that prayer is a profound way of teaching children how to be with God both as active participants and attentive listeners. We teach the Lord's Prayer. Children are also encouraged to write and share their own prayers for worship.

COVID

During the lockdowns associated with the Covid-19 pandemic, collective worship was delivered remotely by the head teacher and deputy and shared on the school's website. GenR8 also provided remote videos for pupils to access.

Reflection areas were also developed outside to support spiritual well-being and commemorate the lockdowns.

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP TIMETABLE FOR A TYPICAL WEEK

Day	Time	Focus
Monday	11.30-12.00	Singing Together Collective Worship - led by music coordinator and the head teacher. During this, we take time to consider carefully the words of one of the songs and make this into a worshipful experience by reflecting on and responding to that song.
Tuesday	10.55- 11.15	Whole School Collective Worship - led by HT/Incumbent - story or other point of value focus, hymn, prayer.
Wednesday	10.55-11.15	Key Stage Collective Worship – led by class teachers or pupils with a focus on the half termly value.
Thursday	10.55- 11.15	Sharing collective worship Led by DH, value focus, hymn, prayer.
Friday	10.55-11.15	Celebration Collective Worship – a celebration of ‘Stars of the Week’, ‘Class of the Week’, ‘Attendance Award’, birthdays and other achievements. Also - different groups of children share their work and achievements from the week linking to the value focus.

MONITORING OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

The monitoring of the planning and provision and impact of worship is carried out on a regular basis. We actively seek the reflections of our pupils about the collective worship with a view to improving the experience for the children.

At Layston we evaluate our acts of worship against some of the following:

- Involvement, enjoyment, attention, reaction of pupils;
- A developing sense of the presence of God in their lives;
- A developing understanding of Jesus Christ and of the Trinity;
- The capacity to enter into prayer/personal reflection;
- The growth of respect and tolerance within the school community;
- A sense of occasion;
- Good order.

We already use pupil feedback from 'Talk Circles' and monitoring sheets of pupil attitudes to enhance provision. There is also a worship-planning group meeting once a term led by the worship co-ordinator (HT). These meetings will be an opportunity to review and evaluate the last term's acts of collective worship and to plan themes for the next term.

VISITORS

We enjoy the fresh approach which visitors can bring to our school worship. We have regular visits from the Reverends at St Peter's, and Tess Maddin, from the Methodist Church in Royston, to lead our collective worship. Other Christian based groups such as Gener8 and 'Open the Book' visit too. We also invite outside speakers to enhance and widen our children's experiences of worship.

Governors also visit termly and on special occasions e.g. giving prizes for Christmas poster competition.

RESOURCES

Resources for worship are kept by the worship co-ordinator both in the HT office, the staffroom and the hall where a central record of the collective worship is kept. The school has a budget to develop collective worship resources and provide high quality CPD for staff.