



# **St Laurence Church of England Primary School**

*Learning with Love and Laughter,  
Growing in God's Grace*

## **Collective Worship Policy 2021 -2022**

*Date: October 2021*

*Review: September 2022*

## **INTRODUCTION**

Collective Worship is central to the life and purposes of St Laurence Church of England Primary School and is central to the development of its Christian foundation, vision, values and ethos.

Recognising its historic foundation, the school will preserve and develop its religious character in the principles of the Church of England and in partnership with the Church at Parish and Diocesan level. The School aims to serve its community by providing an education of the highest quality within the context of Christian belief and practice. It encourages an understanding of the meaning and significance of faith, and promotes Christian values through the experience it offers to all its pupils.

## **AIMS**

- To teach and promote strong Christian values and British values.
- To offer pupils and staff opportunities to explore the Christian faith through stories, poems, drama, music, prayer and quiet reflection.
- To provide children and staff with an opportunity to reflect on the 'big questions' that life poses.
- To positively contribute to the spiritual and moral development of the children and staff.
- To provide a reflective and worshipful atmosphere in which pupils and staff can experience some of the various ways in which people express awe, wonder, reverence, joy and sorrow.
- Foster a concern for others within the school community and wider world.
- To provide pupils and staff with an opportunity to experience stillness, quietness, joyfulness and laughter.
- Encourage respect of other people's religious beliefs and practices.

## **ORGANISATION AND PRACTICE**

The Headteacher is responsible for ensuring all pupils take part. Collective Worship is held Monday, Wednesday and Thursday daily at 9.30am - 9.45am, Tuesday at 2.45pm – 3.00pm and on a Friday, when our Awards Assembly is held at 9.05am and parents are invited to attend.

Collective Worship is planned by Ronni Barker (Acting Headteacher), and is organised around both the Values for Life and the Anglican liturgical calendar. The school also recognises festivals from other major religious faiths. A half-termly overview provides staff and visitors with suggested ideas to follow in their planning. Members of staff are invited to lead or participate in daily worship. This includes Governors. Our parish priest, Father David Lawrence-March, regularly leads our Collective Worship and other visitors are encouraged and welcomed to attend, using our Values as a starting point for their collective worship.

Throughout each half term, explicit links are made between Bible stories and the Christian values of the school. Parents and relatives are provided with additional reading material, related to the current Value, to support the current value at home.

A group of Year 6 children take responsibility for the setting up of Collective Worship. They also light the three candles ready for prayer in Collective Worship.

Throughout Collective Worship a range and variety of materials is used, including: websites, artifacts, stories, drama scripts, artwork, music, songs, film clips, focal points e.g. a picture or candle. Our half termly overview is available on the school website.

## **PARENTAL AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT**

Parents, relatives and members of the community are invited, and encouraged, to attend acts of Collective Worship at various times during the year, both in school and at St Laurence Church.

In accordance with the 1988 Education Reform Act parents have the right to withdraw children from collective worship although there is an expectation that parents wishing to request a withdrawal will meet with the Head of School to discuss their concerns and requirements. When requested and agreed upon, children will

## **MONITORING AND EVALUATION**

We regularly, and systematically, review our collective worship so that we can continue to see it strengthen, and develop, over time.

Collective Worship, including this policy, is discussed, and reviewed every term during the teachers' staff meeting.

The children undertake their own evaluation which is shared with staff.

Governors at our Church School are also tasked with the responsibility of helping to jointly monitor worship on the school community and visit during open weeks and during other services.