



## **St Giles' CE Primary School**

### **Worship Policy**

#### **Vision**

***'You must love one another as I have loved you.' John 13 v 34.***

Working together with love we will provide a happy and nurturing environment where all will, '***learn to love and love to learn***', making outstanding progress through an enriched and creative curriculum.

Through our strong Christian ethos we will celebrate and embrace the richness of our community.

***Learn to Love - Love to Learn***

***'You must love one another as I have loved you.' John 13 v 34***

#### **Values**

Our vision and Christian ethos is supported by the following core values;

**Forgiveness and Reconciliation**

**Agape**

**Compassion and Community**

**Equality**

**Service and Stewardship**

## **MISSION**

The school's mission statement will be underpinned by our vision, motto and values with our commitment to the '**Rights of the Child**' (UNCRC).

We will therefore:

- nurture a **compassionate** community where all feel safe to express their different points of view knowing that their opinions are valued.  
[Article 12 \(respect for the views of the child\)](#)  
[Article 30 \(children from minority or indigenous groups\)](#)
- work in partnership with our **community** ensure that **agape** is at the heart of all we do.  
[Article 14 \(freedom of thought, belief and religion\)](#)
- teach the true meaning of **forgiveness** and **reconciliation** encouraging an attitude of loving one another and promoting good mental health and wellbeing.  
[Article 2 \(non-discrimination\)](#)
- have at our heart collective worship that will encompass our vision and Christian ethos.  
[Article 14 \(freedom of thought, belief and religion\)](#)
- provide an enriched and creative curriculum where all will flourish so that they '**learn to love and love to learn.**'  
[Article 28 \(right to education\)](#)
- develop a PSHE and RSE curriculum that has at its heart **equality and inclusion** preparing children for the joys and challenges of modern Britain.  
[Article 3 \(best interests of the child\)](#)
- instil the attitude of **service and stewardship** that challenges social injustice, promotes **equality** and encourages an understanding of our world and the needs and wants of others.  
[Article 29 \(goals of education\)](#)

### **Worship Policy Mission Statement**

Collective worship plays a central part in the life of St Giles Church of England School and is a means by which the school's Christian vision is expressed (Strand 6 SIAMS 2018). As an expression of the Christian vision, ethos and spiritual life of the school it offers the whole school community opportunities to experience, participate in and take responsibility for the living expression of Christian worship, valued and honoured through the school's Anglican Foundation. We affirm every individual's unique contribution, regardless of age, gender, sexuality, ability, background or religion.

### **Section 48 Statutory Inspection of Anglican & Methodist Schools (SIAMS)**

As a Voluntary Controlled school, St Giles C of E Primary will be inspected on collective worship and the impact this has on the whole school community (Strand 6 of the SIAMS 2018 schedule). The core question of this strand is, the ways in which collective worship is an expression of the school's Christian vision. This inspection will evaluate the school's collective worship on the following:

- that it is inclusive, invitational and inspiring
- offers the opportunity, without compulsion, to all pupils and adults to grow spiritually through experiences of prayer, stillness, worship and reflection
- enables all pupils and adults to appreciate that Christians worship in different ways, for example using music, silence, story, prayer, reflection, the varied liturgical and other traditions of Anglican worship, festivals and, where appropriate, the Eucharist.
- helps pupils and adults to appreciate the relevance of faith in today's world, to encounter the teachings of Jesus and the Bible and to develop their understanding of the Christian belief in the Trinitarian nature of God and its language.
- enables pupils as well as adults to engage in the planning, leading and evaluation of collective worship in ways that lead to improving practice. Leaders of worship, including clergy, have access to regular training.

- encourages local church community partnerships to support the school effectively in developing its provision for collective worship.

### Intent of worship

The vision of our Worship is to encourage all to grow in faith, love, understanding and compassion.

### Worship should provide opportunities to:

- enhance the spiritual development and response of pupils
- affirm the Christian faith and the central Christian status of Jesus as the Son of God
- affirm the Christian belief in the Trinity and explore the meaning of each person of the Trinity
- understand the big story of the Bible and its theological themes
- explore the school's Christian values, and how they are rooted in the Bible, and to deepen pupils understanding of how they relate to the school, local community and wider world
- foster reflection, meditation, prayer and silence
- create an atmosphere in which worship of God is both normal and natural
- actively involve pupils in the delivery of worship in creative and imaginative ways (reading, poetry, drama, dance, quiet / silent reflection, prayer, singing)
- explore and enjoy praise, prayer and the rituals of Christianity (the Anglican tradition in particular)
- to foster empathy and imagination, awe and wonder, enabling pupils to participate in a variety of ways
- explore Eucharistic worship (where appropriate) within the Anglican tradition by observing how Eucharist is celebrated in our local church and in another church with a differing tradition, and being invited to join in for a blessing as appropriate
- enable pupils to reflect on the experiences of Christian adherents
- foster and value a search for a faith to live by
- learn about and reflect upon Christian teaching, Biblical material and Christian festivals, in a way that relates to the pupils' experience and to living together in community
- worship together rather than apart, taking into account the multi-cultural nature of the school community
- encourage pupils and staff to plan, participate and lead in worship
- develop a sense of community and shared values
- consider the needs of others and to foster charitable works
- celebrate the highest achievements of the human spirit
- celebrate achievements of members of the school in every aspect of school life
- foster a thought provoking atmosphere allowing for spiritual reflection and response
- make regular use of local church buildings for worship

### Implementation of Collective Worship

Collective worship needs to be:

- Appropriate to the age, aptitude and background of pupils
- Provided in a variety of settings, groupings and timings, with a variety of leaders
- In sympathy with the cultures and beliefs represented in the School Community

At different times worship will be organised for the whole school, for phases or for classes. The following timetable provides a framework but may be subject to alteration dependent on phase/year groups. Please see individual class timetable for specific acts of worship for each year group.

Day	Act of Worship
Monday	Class Worship (E.g. Values based - Roots and Fruits)
Tuesday	Class Worship (E.g. Values based - Roots and Fruits)
Wednesday	Songs of Praise
Thursday	Class Worship (E.g. Picture News)
Friday	Whole School Collective Worship in St Giles Church led by the Worship Council and the School Choir

Children work together to support planning, deliver worship and take ownership of the reflection and prayer area. At St Giles C of E Primary School, we use the Roots and Fruits resource from EYFS-KS2 as a basis for our Christian Collective Worship. Roots and Fruits provides creative collective worship for primary schools based on Christian values themes over a period of two years. Rooted in Bible teaching, twelve Christian values represent the fruit that grows as the teaching is lived out in everyday life. Each term focuses on one value (theme) which links with the season of the Church year. Roots and Fruits is designed to support SIAMS requirements and meets the criteria set out in the Evaluation Schedule.

It ensures that collective worship is:

- inspiring and transformational
- includes a range of creative opportunities, e.g. music, silence, symbol, drama
- develops the Christian vision, values and ethos of the school

Each assembly includes the four elements of *Welcome, Learning, Reflecting* and *Responding*. The worship is enriched by the use of:

- Quotes and questions to encourage deeper thinking about each value
- Photographs and posters to root the teaching in the everyday experience of children
- Stories, poems and art, much of which has been especially commissioned for this book
- Prayers and guided reflections from traditional and contemporary authors
- Fruits from the Roots – ideas to develop the theme of the worship through the week
- A hymn linked to each value

Each week, every class will make an entry into their Class Worship Folder to allow the pupils to explore each theme and Bible reading in more detail, giving opportunity for personal expression and further questioning.

Roots and Fruits supports and enhances the Understanding Christianity resource that is being used to deliver the Christianity element of our RE in class. As well as Roots and Fruits, other resources are used to plan and lead Collective Worship, including Picture News.

All acts of Collective Worship, including hymn practice and praise assembly should include prayer (traditional, contemporary or spontaneous), reflection and songs or music from a variety of cultures. In addition, leaders of Collective Worship are encouraged to use the following elements to maintain the engagement, interest and variety of Collective Worship:

- Readings and stories
- Interaction such as paired discussions, sound effects for a story, demonstrations from the front
- Special clothing, artefacts
- Dance and drama
- Use of senses
- Artistic imagery

The following attitudes should be developed:

- Sense of beauty, awe and wonder
- Feelings of belonging
- Respect for others irrespective of gender, social, racial or cultural differences
- Sense of pride
- Sense of empathy
- Thankfulness
- Sense of shared sadness or loss
- Sense of stillness in the midst of business

### **Creating a Sense of Occasion**

Children should sense that Collective Worship is a special time to be quiet and reflect. It is important that they enter the hall quietly. Music can be used to encourage a mood of quiet anticipation. At times a visual symbol can be used such as a candle, flowers or a picture.

### **The role of the Worship Council**

The worship council are chosen based on an application for the role to the worship coordinator. Their role in Collective Worship is as follows:

- Planning and leading weekly whole school collective worship

- Monitoring Collective Worship and feeding back to the worship coordinator
- Choosing and reading prayers
- Leading the call and response for worship
- Other roles as appropriate and determined by worship coordinator and/ or leader of Collective Worship

## **Hymns and Songs**

The music co-ordinator links appropriate hymns to the themes and stories. Children should be encouraged to think about the meaning of hymns and songs and to understand how music can be used to convey a mood or feeling e.g. joy, thankfulness, sadness, reflection, contemplation, aspiration.

## **Readings and Stories**

A variety of material should be used – anecdotal stories to illustrate a theme or teaching of Jesus, stories from the Bible, of the lives of Christians and stories from other traditions and sources.

## **Prayer**

A variety of written and extemporary prayers should be used. At times children should be involved in reading their own or others' prayers, and given opportunity for spontaneous prayers based on what has been discussed, taught or learned in Collective Worship. Prayer should always be invitational, with words such as 'please prepare yourself for prayer' and 'you can join in with this prayer if you want to by saying Amen at the end' are used.

## **Reflection**

In most Collective Worship, children should be given opportunity to reflect in silence.

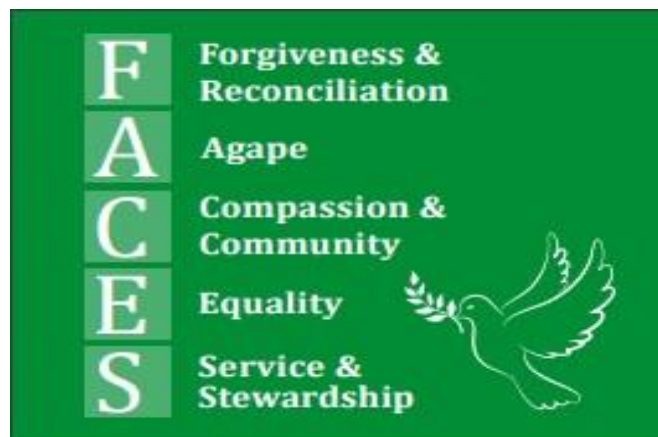
## **Management of Collective Worship**

Ultimately the responsibility for Collective Worship lies with the Headteacher and the Chair of Governors. However, the role of planning, resourcing, managing and evaluating worship has been delegated to the worship coordinator. In addition, all teachers in a church school are 'spiritual leaders' and have a responsibility to help pupils develop spiritual awareness.

## **Monitoring and evaluation**

Monitoring of collective worship is carried out by the worship co-ordinator. Governors also play a role in monitoring collective worship and this is fed back to other governors through link governor reports. They meet with the headteacher and the collective worship co-ordinator to reflect on current practice. Pupils are also asked to evaluate collective worship in an informal way. Feedback will be brought to staff meetings which will review collective worship which will be held regularly. The information gathered via one or more of the strategies will be analysed carefully in order to evaluate the quality and effectiveness of the collective worship. The worship co-ordinator, the headteacher and foundation governor(s), including the incumbent, will be the main evaluators. Formal evaluation of collective worship will take place at least annually as detailed in the school improvement plan. As part of the planning and evaluation a floor book pulls together understanding and thoughts throughout the week.

At St Giles CE Primary School we believe in the importance of Christian Values. Young children learn values from their personal relationships, everyday interactions and the examples set by parents, other adults and teachers. We constantly ask ourselves: What are the common values we are all committed to sharing whilst working here each day? As a Church school we have a responsibility to base our values on the wisdom and understanding of the Christian faith and the gospel values founded by Jesus. As a multicultural school we celebrate the core values we share in common with other faiths and cultures. At this school we have chosen 5 core values. These are:-



We have chosen to focus on 5 of these values each year (over a 3 year cycle), making one value a key focus for each half term. How do we share these values?

- Through the mission, aims and management of the whole school which is reflected in our ethos. We will ensure that our school is a safe and caring place where all children can share and explore good moral behaviour. All relationships in school should offer a model of values in action.
- Through every adult's example and our use of moral language which will help children make sound choices of what is acceptable and not acceptable in being part of this Church school.
- Through love and respect for classroom values which then become embedded in the behaviour and attitudes of all of our school community.
- Through the contribution of curriculum subjects areas.
- Through quality Collective Worship exploring Christian values together.
- Through quality teaching and learning that conveys respect for others, respect for truth, acceptance of responsibility and a concern for justice and fairness.
- Through the sharing of stories, songs, prayers and traditions from all the faiths and cultures of our school community

Updated June 2023  
To be reviewed: June 2025