

St Lawrence C E Primary School



Collective Worship Policy

Recognising its historic foundation, the school will preserve and develop its religious character in accordance with the principles of the Church of England and in partnership with the Church at parish and diocesan level.

Our school aims to serve its community by providing an education of the highest quality within the context of Christian beliefs 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.

Why do we offer collective worship?

The sharing of daily collective worship is an important part of our school's life:

- It offers an opportunity to support and affirm our Christian ethos and values.
- It is a special time within the school day for us to share a spiritual and reflective space as a community.
- It provides a unique context for exploring events and experiences that are significant to the children, the school, the church and the wider community.

How do we offer and conduct collective worship?

Our collective worship happens in a variety of places with groupings based on the various needs of staff and children.

During the week, children and staff gather in a variety of groupings for acts of Collective Worship. These acts of worship with Christian festivals and also link with the 'St Lawrence Way' a learning model created by staff, children and governors and church governors.

Monday

Celebration assembly

Whole school assembly all staff present

- School certificates
- School news
- Outside achievements
- Singing of hymns
- Presentation of 'big question' from OTB (Open the Book) theme e.g. – "Is it ever O.K to break a promise?"
- A period of prayer and reflection.

Tuesday

Singing assembly

Selected school hymns sung in preparation for 'Hymns on the Hill' and other services as well as including a period of prayer and reflection. These hymns include

- 'Who put the colours in the rainbow'
- 'Oh happy day'
- 'Our god is a great big god'

- 'We shall go out with joy'
- 'One more step'
- 'Give me oil'
- 'Shine Jesus shine'

Wednesday

Class discussion

Pupils and teachers in class rooms discuss/reflect and answer the big question presented in Monday's assembly that link to a bible story as well as including a periods of prayer and reflection.

Thursday

Key Stage assembly

These cater for religious festivals from the following faiths.

1. Christianity
2. Sikhism
3. Islam
4. Hinduism
5. Buddhism
6. Native spirituality

There is always discussion on the similarities and differences with Christianity as well as prayer and reflection.

Friday

Worship assembly

Whole school service

- Bible story performed by the Open The Book team
- School hymns sung
- Discussion of bible story message
- Period of reflection and class prayers
- The Lord's Prayer delivered by one class in a style of its choosing.

Worship Content

Our worship times have distinctive elements which emphasise our distinctive our Church of England status and our Christian ethos.

- The use of familiar prayers over the course of the year, and which children can gain confidence and join in with.
- Spontaneous prayers which focus on an event whether local, national or international that requires thought and reflection.
- The use of themes which reflect the Church's calendar.
- Regular acts of collective worship, which take place in St. Laurence's Church in Church Stretton. For example Harvest, Christmas, Easter and Remembrance Day.
- The learning and singing of a variety of traditional and new worship songs for use in our collective worship.

- The involvement of our rectors; other members of Church Stretton's Local Ministry Team and the Open the Book team, in leading acts of worship in school.
- A style of worship which includes time to listen, to share, to read from the Bible, to pray, to sing and to actively join in.
- The inclusion of the local community through invitation to Hymns on the Hill and Carols in the Square.
- Year 6 leavers' service at Hereford Cathedral.

A multi-sensory time

We believe it is important to us that our collective worship sessions are delivered in different ways to engage all pupils and therefore recognise the need for providing multi-sensory experiences for our children. Our worship times may use:

- music
- acting and drama
- discussion
- stories
- tapes, CDs and DVDs etc
- adult-led times
- child-led times
- time for reflection and prayer
- visual aids e.g. candles, pictures, fabrics, photographs etc
- games
- website information and pictures etc.

Not every act of worship will include every element! However, over the weeks and terms the children will receive a balance of input which we hope will enable all children to engage with our worship sessions.

Where?

- Acts of worship will often take place in the school hall – as this the best space for very large groups.
- Individual classrooms may be used for class worship times.
- Outdoor environments will be used for worship we like to climb the local hills and explore the awe and wonder of the stunning natural surroundings.
- St. Laurence's church is used for acts of worship across the year, including Christmas performances, and services, end of year service and Easter workshops.

The use of the school hall, and of classrooms, presents particular challenges in terms of creating an environment conducive for collective worship. As multi-purpose spaces they can be hard to mark as distinctively different when offering worship times. We use displays and focus objects to help mark our worship time as special. We have the expectation that the children approach

some elements of collective worship in an especially quiet, calm and reflective manners. Reinforcement and modelling of required behaviour by staff is essential in marking out our worship time as special within the day.

Withdrawing children

Parents have the right to ask that their children be withdrawn from acts of collective worship. If a parent wishes their child to be withdrawn, contact with the headteacher should be made to make appropriate arrangements.

Occasionally, children will miss an act of worship due to being involved in another activity. This sports, music lessons, swimming or an essential intervention programme. It is important that the same pupils don't always miss out and that where possible, a prayer or small act of worship takes place with them wherever they are.