



In our school we love deeply, respecting everyone and treating them with dignity;  
we aspire with confidence, working hard and embracing challenge and  
we serve God and the community, following the example of Jesus, to create a better world.

**Ephesians 5:2 (NLT)**

*“Live a life filled with love, following the example of Christ. He loved us and offered himself as a sacrifice for us”*

## Collective worship policy 2021

At Latymer All Saints, our vision and values, shape all that we do. Grounded in clear theology and rooted in the teaching and example of Jesus Christ we are committed to providing a variety of engaging opportunities for our school community to experience the value and meaning of worship, understanding its importance as central to everything that we do. Through our school vision and core values of Love, Aspiration and Service, we seek to provide invitational acts of collective worship which foster a deep respect for all, enabling children to experience and understand the different ways in which Christians worship God whilst choosing to either engage or simply be present and to do so with integrity.

### Aims and Objectives

- To provide invitational and inspiring moments of collective worship, without compulsion, where all members of the school community can choose to engage or be present and develop and grow spiritually, whilst recognising a parent/carer's legal right to withdraw their child from acts of collective worship.
- To help all members of the school community to understand and appreciate the value and relevance of faith in today's world, to encounter the teachings of Jesus and the Bible and to develop their understanding of the core theological concepts of the Christian faith, including the Trinitarian nature of God and its language.
- To offer all members of the school community, the opportunity to recognise and express the feelings and senses from which worship naturally arises. In particular, the senses of beauty, wonder, empathy, smallness, grandness, sadness, loss, peace, thoughtfulness, stillness and pride.
- To provide experiences which reflect the many different ways in which Christians worship, using scripture as found in the Bible, other literature and visual materials to illustrate themes, music, prayer, silence, stillness, reflection and liturgy and traditions of Anglican worship - to also include the Eucharist.
- To provide a variety of creative opportunities where pupils can pray and reflect, both supervised and through their own volition, and consider the impact on their own lives and how it inspires them to action.
- To involve as many staff and children as possible in the development, planning, monitoring, evaluation and delivery of collective worship, and to involve visitors and contributors from the wider community.
- To provide an agreed, flexible programme for collective worship on a half termly basis, which reflects the vision and values of the school and further develops the themes which underpin the school's core values of Love, Aspiration and Service.
- To ensure that training and support is provided for all staff to lead engaging collective worship in a range of contexts, including classroom worship, and to encourage staff to observe and discuss the different approaches given to worship.

## Organisation of Collective Worship

- In addition to the regular daily acts of Collective Worship, whole school and celebration assemblies are held throughout the year and both parents/carers and all members of the community are encouraged to attend and celebrate along with the children.
- Special festival services, which are child led, such as Harvest, Christmas and Easter are also held at All Saints Church, where members of the wider community are encouraged to attend. Termly, clergy led services take place three times a year and incorporate some of the liturgy of the Anglican tradition. The latter of these being a Eucharist Service for all children gives those who are confirmed the opportunity to receive Communion.
- Throughout the year, visitors are invited to lead assemblies, broadening the range of themes and current issues looked at and adding to the variety of styles of worship within the Christian traditions. On occasion, members and leaders of other faiths are invited to attend and participate.
- Occasionally, assemblies are held for special reasons (e.g. as memorials to mark the sad passing of a member of staff or pupil, or to celebrate the contribution of staff who may be leaving and moving on to new things).
- The school vision and values are central to each assembly. Daily, children are encouraged to be aspirational in following Jesus' example and make sacrifices of love and service to those around them both inside and outside of school, within their families, the school community and the wider community beyond.
- Periodically, pupil voice is sought, which informs planning and pupils are given the opportunity to plan and deliver assemblies.
- The weekly structure for assemblies follows a pattern which is repeated each half term. A range of staff are involved and there is flexibility for the inclusion of special assemblies by visiting individuals or organisations. A simple overview is as indicated below:
  - Monday Senior Leadership Team
  - Tuesday Clergy – The minister of All Saints who is well known to the school community and other members of clergy from other churches within the parish.
  - Wednesday Achievement & Awards Assemblies – KS1 / Lower KS2 / Upper KS2
  - Thursday Praise – KS1 / KS2
  - Friday Senior Staff / Class / Child led – Class assemblies are shared with parents.  
School Council and House Captains also lead assemblies.  
Pupils also have the opportunity to plan and lead assemblies.
- Children are encouraged and invited to take an active part in all aspects of daily collective worship, either corporately or individually, through readings, prayers, times of reflection and/or stillness, acting or participating in interactive activities, responding to questions and joining in the singing of songs.
- The Head teacher has the responsibility to ensure that the children are having a meaningful experience during collective worship and regularly reviews the process in conjunction with the Governors (i.e. regular review of policy).

## **Themes of Collective Worship**

The program of collective worship is set prior to the start of each new academic year, depending on the number of weeks in each half term.

It follows a two-year cycle which centres on the school's three core values of Love, Aspiration and Service (one per each half term and repeating) and each week's assemblies make links – sometimes explicit - to a chosen theme that underpins the core value.

Senior Leadership Assemblies can take a more flexible approach and also provide opportunities to focus on significant days and festivals as set out in the School Collective Worship calendar for the year.

Clergy led assemblies take pupils on a journey through the big story of the Bible, whilst also focusing on the half term's core value and weekly themes and making direct links to the 'Core Theological Concepts'. The incumbent minister of All Saints Church takes a lead role in leading these assemblies along with other members of clergy from within the Edmonton Parish.

Achievement & Award Assemblies provide opportunities to celebrate the wonderful work of pupils, and to recognise the many instances where the school's vision and values, and the associated themes, are visibly seen - being lived out on a daily basis through pupils' words and actions.

Praise assemblies where possible make links to the half term's core value and weekly themes. Pupils are given the opportunity to reflect as they listen to the choir lead with singing or as pupils play instrumentally during entry and exit. Opportunities are made to learn about the composers of some of the songs that are sung, and Bible readings and prayers are used to draw focus to the values and themes of each assembly.

Senior Staff Assemblies focus directly on the chosen theme for the week, and through the telling of Bible stories, engaging activities, prayers and times of reflection, help pupils to further understand how they can live out the school's core values in real and tangible ways, and so fulfil the school's vision.

Agreed by the Headteacher: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Agreed by the Governing Body: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Policy review date January 2023