



All Saints C of E  
Infant and Nursery School

Selston C of E  
Infant and Nursery School

# Collective Worship Policy 2021

September 2021

*Opening hearts and minds through the  
grace and love of God*

# **ALL SAINTS CHURCH OF ENGLAND (VA) INFANT SCHOOL AND PRE-SCHOOL**

## **SELSTON CHURCH OF ENGLAND (VC) INFANT AND NURSERY SCHOOL**

### **MISSION STATEMENT**

*Opening hearts and minds through the grace and love of God*

At All Saints Infant School and Pre-School and Selston Infant and Nursery School children always come first and we try to nourish, challenge, prepare and inspire them within a Christian ethos.

We believe in valuing all who contribute towards the successful running of our schools including children, parents, carers, governors, teaching and non-teaching staff.

This Mission Statement lies at the heart of our schools' aims. It is the philosophical basis for all of the schools' policies and through these, for everything that happens in and round our schools. Our aspiration is for everyone at All Saints and Selston to:

- feel happy, secure, safe and valued at school
- develop a growing awareness of their own inner self and spirituality, and of the power of the Christian faith to transform lives
- develop healthy relationships based on care, trust, compassion and forgiveness
- show acceptance for and understanding of others who may have different beliefs or needs
- strive for the highest standards of achievement, developing the confidence and skills to be independent, motivated and self-disciplined learners
- have a positive approach to life, contributing to the well-being of the community and building hope for the future

We hope that children will leave our schools with open hearts and minds, ready to respond to the opportunities that lie before them and to experience the joy of life in all its fullness.

At All Saints CE Infant and Pre-School and Selston C of E, the daily act of collective worship is viewed as an integral part of school life. Through this and the ethos of our school, we seek to promote our mission statement:

*'Opening hearts and minds through the grace and love of God'.*

It is a time when we come together to share our love of God and celebrate our achievements (and sometimes failures). We:

- express praise and thanksgiving to God;
- are still and reflect;
- explore the big questions of life and respond to national events;
- foster respect and deepen spiritual awareness;
- reflect on the character of God and on the teachings of Christ;
- affirm Christian values and attitudes;
- share each other's joys and challenges;
- celebrate special times in the Christian calendar;
- engage in an act of community.

The worship of the school is based on promoting the Christian values which permeate the ethos of the school. The contributions of staff, pupils, church clergy and other visitors are valued highly.

## **Legal Requirements**

We acknowledge the legal requirement stated in the 1988 Education Reform Act 6 (1) and 9 (3), which states the need for each child to attend a daily act of worship either as a whole school, class or group. Parents/carers have the legal right to withdraw their children from the act of worship either partially or wholly. Any parents/carers wishing to do so should contact the Headteacher. Teachers also have the right to withdraw from leading and taking part in worship.

## **Christian Values**

The schools hold Christian beliefs and adheres to the values embedded in the Christian story. Among these values are:

### **Love: *Don't forget to let love in (Heartsmart)***

'God is love. Whoever lives in love, lives in God, and God in them.'

1 John 4:16

### **Service: *Too much selfie isn't healthy (Heartsmart)***

'I your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet. So you also should wash one another's feet. I have given you an example. You should do as I have done for you.'

John 13:14-15

**Forgiveness: *Don't rub it in, rub it out (Heartsmart)***

'Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.'

Mathew 6:12

**Truth: *Fake is a mistake (Heartsmart)***

'The truth will set you free.'

John 8:32

**Endurance: *No way through isn't true (Heartsmart)***

'Love never gives up.'

1 Corinthians 13:7

These are the values that we have adopted as the most important ones for our school. We also actively seek to encourage the attitudes of awe, wonder and reflection.

**Organisation**

We aim to provide a variety of worship experiences for children, staff and parents/carers, both in All Saints Church and in our schools. Collective worship takes place every day at 9am, for about 15 minutes. Celebration Worship takes place on a Friday, when parents/carers of pupils who are 'Star of the Week' are invited to attend. The 'Celebration Book' is a record of the children who have been selected and the reasons for this. Church worship is planned on a fortnightly basis, sometimes led by Rev. Maiden/Rev. Fi Shouler, sometimes by school staff. Parents/carers and members of the wider community are made very welcome. In addition to this, visiting groups and individuals are welcomed into school to lead worship.

Following the success of Zoom worship during the pandemic, we hold a virtual HeartSmart worship time on a Monday morning so that both schools in our collaboration can come together.

The major Christian festivals of Harvest, Christmas, Easter and Pentecost are celebrated in All Saints Church with special services. A Leavers' Service is also held in Church in July to give thanks for the Year 2 pupils about to leave the school.

**Planning, Content and Detail**

The long term Collective Worship Plan specifies the Bible themes and Christian values that will be covered each half term.

Each worship contains four key elements:

**1. Gathering**

Drawing into worship, creating a distinctive atmosphere and a feeling of expectation.

This could be:

- Listening to a special piece of music
- Joining in with a song
- Having a visual focus for children to look at as they enter

## **2. Engaging**

Main input of the worship.

This could be:

- Bible input – telling a story with props or through drama
- Wondering aloud about a Bible story recently told/discussion
- Telling a story based on the a Christian value with props or through drama
- Using visual images (photographs/paintings) to explore a Christian value
- Having discussions based on moral dilemmas and asking how Jesus might respond
- Learning a 'power verse' by heart

## **3. Responding**

Offering all present a time to respond to what they have heard in a way that is appropriate to them, in the spirit of invitation not compulsion.

This could be:

- Saying a prayer
- Asking those present to offer prayers (thank you, please, sorry)
- Having a time of silent reflection
- Having a time of reflection with music

## **4. Sending**

Leaving the act of worship, which should have a purpose – not just a physical matter of getting out of the room. Those present should leave with a sense of being sent out in the power of God's Spirit.

This could involve:

- Extinguishing the candle
- Singing a song
- Leaving to a selected piece of music
- Practising the power verse

Every opportunity is taken to involve the children in the planning and leading of collective worship. They light candles, choose music, sing and play instruments, take part in drama and share prayers.

## **Godly Play**

Godly Play sessions take place several times through the year. This is a powerful means of presenting biblical material, and gives pupils opportunities to reflect on different aspects of a Bible story through 'I wonder' questions and art and craft activities. This is an important aspect of pupils' spiritual development.

## **Prayer and Reflection**

Collective worship always includes a time of prayer and/or reflection. A range of prayers is used including the Lord's Prayer, and prayers written or spontaneously spoken by the staff, children and others. They are introduced in an appropriate manner with a short time of quiet. At the beginning of collective worship, a time of reflection and quiet is encouraged by the lighting of candles. A cross is also displayed on the worship table.

All Saints Infant and Nursery School and Selston C of E have a Prayer Tree in school. Children are encouraged to write short prayers and stick them onto the tree. Grace is always said just before lunch, and a 'going home' prayer is said at the end of story time.

## **Other Faiths**

Although our worship is wholly Christian in nature, we are committed to respecting the faith traditions and cultures of others, showing tolerance and understanding.

We affirm the purpose of a Church school as being, in the words of Lord Runcie:

- to nourish those of faith
- to encourage those of other faiths
- to challenge those who have no faith

## **Record Keeping, Evaluation and Monitoring**

Long and short term planning is completed. Monitoring and evaluation activities include observation of worship, the Collective Worship portfolio including children's comments and drawings, photographic records, and pupil and staff feedback. Training is encouraged and available for those who wish to lead acts of worship.

## **Collective Worship Leader**

Lynette Hardwick/All Saints

Clare Moss/Selston C of E

## **Governor responsible for Collective Worship**

Rev. Charlie Maiden/All Saints

Rev. Fi Shouler/Selston C of E