

# Laughton All Saints' C of E Primary School



## Policy for: Collective Worship

In our Church of England school we are tolerant of others and promote respect for the dignity and worth of each individual. We aim to nurture caring and self-regulating citizens.

We help each child to fulfil their potential physically, academically, socially, morally and spiritually, without fear of discrimination.

Collective worship is for all pupils, every day at Laughton All Saints' C of E Primary School. Collective worship has the potential to unite the whole membership of the school and therefore to develop a sense of community. Collective worship is a part of Laughton All Saints' C of E Primary School's contribution to promoting the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of every child. It is an important time to celebrate the worth and value of every single person in the school community.

In accordance with our Trust Deed and with statutory requirements at our school, collective worship is placed at the centre of the school's daily life.

During collective worship at our school, we are working towards creating experiences which recognise the integrity and dignity of all members of the school community, both those who adopt a religious life-stance and those who do not. These experiences are educational and stimulate the opportunity for a person's inward reflection which can lead to the development of an outward and open lifestyle in which they live generously with others.

One of the ways our school fulfils its Christian character is by having services in our local church from time to time and by inviting the clergy into school occasionally to lead worship and take part in the children's religious education classes.

### **Collective Worship and Assembly**

Collective worship and assembly are not the same thing, but it is usual for an act of collective worship to take place during an assembly, either as a small part of the assembly or its entirety. The act of collective worship is distinct from assembly by the lighting of a candle at the beginning, focus and reflection, prayers, Bible readings and hymns. Children are reminded that the candle represents Jesus as the light of the world and also gives them a focus for reflection. Blowing out the candle at the end gives the act of collective worship a unity as a period of quiet reflection within the busy school day. Collective worship is a special time for pupils to reflect upon their life experiences and to seek out answers to ultimate questions as far as their intellectual and spiritual capacities will allow them.

Collective worship at our school endeavours to encourage the development of these areas in every child. It is a time when the individual child can be celebrated for his or her social and academic achievements, and a time to foster the positive values held at the school, the local community and the wider world.

An assembly is a gathering of part or all of the school. It is concerned with administrative matters and other announcements about school life, although it is usually in practice more than that. It is of utmost importance that collective worship is seen to be distinct from those parts of the assembly that are concerned solely with administration. Collective worship is a context for allowing an individual to make a spiritual response freely if it is appropriate for them.

At our school, almost every assembly incorporates an act of worship which aims to be inclusive, curricular and educational where all pupils are capable of responding. It should contribute to the education (in its broadest sense) of all the pupils and maintains a sense of occasion.

At Laughton All Saints' C of E Primary School a wide range of people are encouraged to lead collective worship. All teachers take an active role in leading worship with the headteacher taking a prominent role.

Parents, governors, faith community representatives and other community groups are encouraged to be involved when and where appropriate, either by occasional participation or by specific invitation.

In order for collective worship to be delivered effectively, careful preparation, good organisation, time, resources and training are all necessary elements. Our school has embarked upon a whole school approach to collective worship planning and has adopted an annual thematic approach.

There is a new theme introduced to the school by the teacher at the beginning of each week. The school then explores elements of this theme through a variety of methods and groupings throughout the week e.g.:

Monday	Head / SLT led Collective Worship
Tuesday & Wednesday	Teacher / Class led Collective Worship
Thursday	Hymn practice during which an act of worship takes place
Friday	Whole school celebrates work and good achievement

At least once a year a family assembly is held by each class for their parents. This is an opportunity for parents to share children's achievements and to see their work. We also hold graduations at the end of the school year.

Children take an active part in planning, leading and evaluating collective worship in school and in church on a regular basis. This includes planning and taking an active role in the school Eucharist. Each class will take turns to lead this service, which takes place each term.

A Eucharist is usually held each term either in church or in school and the vicar will often join us for assembly in school. Other services are held in Church to celebrate Church Festivals and school events. Again children take a lead role in planning, leading and reflecting on these services.

Collective worship at Laughton All Saints' C of E Primary School is co-ordinated by the headteacher.

The outcome of collective worship at the school is evaluated through the process of teacher observation, pupil feedback, parental feedback, governor feedback etc on the quality of the school's ethos and community relationships.

## **Withdrawal of Pupils from Collective Worship**

The main aim of collective worship at Laughton All Saints' C of E Primary School is for it to be meaningful and relevant for all pupils and staff, for those with a faith background and those with none. It is therefore hoped that few parents will feel that they have to remove their child from collective worship as this affects the unity of the school.

Parents do, however, have the right to remove their child without any explanation. As a school, we pride ourselves on good communication with parents and actively encourage dialogue concerning collective worship so that misunderstanding and confusion as to its nature can be avoided.

Currently, no parents withdraw their children from worship. The headteacher is not responsible for providing alternative worship but does ensure that these children have adequate supervision.

## **Cycle of Themes**

The cycle of themes is based upon a discrete worship theme for each week of the year as shown below:

### **Autumn Term**

*New Things*  
*Helping*  
*Homes*  
*Harvest*  
*Autumn*  
*Happiness*  
*Service*  
*Prayer*  
*Leadership*  
*Trust*  
*Consideration*  
*Determination*  
*Sharing*  
*Gifts /Christmas*

### **Spring Term**

*The New Year*  
*Families*  
*Talents*  
*Teaching*  
*Wisdom*  
*Protecting*  
*Joy and Sorrow*  
  
*Friends*  
  
*Love*  
*Our Mothers*  
*New Life*  
*Easter*

### **Summer Term**

*Surprises*  
*Our Senses*  
*Journeys*  
*Signs and Symbols*  
*Light and Colour*  
*Courage*  
*Rules*  
  
*Discoveries*  
  
*Beauty*  
*Faith*  
*Communities*  
*Saying Goodbye*  
*Change/ Moving On*

These themes can be developed into individual acts of worship by using the stories and material to be found in a variety of published works. Particularly useful for the cycle of themes are:

Assemblies for Primary Schools by Margaret Cooling  
Celebrating our Environment by Elizabeth Ashton  
Cracking Assemblies 2 by Margaret Cooling and Diane Walker with Brian Ogden  
The Tinder-Box Assembly Book compiled by Sylvia Barratt  
Worship! By John Bailey  
Inspirations for Assemblies and School Worship by Sandra Palmer and Elizabeth Breuilly  
Christian Assemblies for Primary Schools by Sharon Swain  
52 Ideas for Junior Classroom Assemblies by Chris Chesterton and Pat Gutteridge  
Golden Rules