



**St Silas Church of England Primary School**

**Collective Worship Policy**

**Autumn 2024**



<p>At St Silas CE Primary School, we are guided by the Rainbow Education Multi-Academy Trust vision <b>to ensure that each and every child, no matter what their background or circumstance, reaches their potential and leaves us ready for the next stage of life.</b></p> <p>Our school vision, which is theologically-rooted in Christian faith and God's teachings, is threaded through all aspects of school life and underpins everything that we do:</p> <p><b>That each and every child should thrive, flourish and live life in all its fullness (John 10:10).</b></p>				
<p>Endurance <i>'Endurance produces character'</i> Roman 5:4</p>	<p>Excellence <i>'Let your light shine'</i> Matthew 5:16</p>	<p>Wisdom <i>'Blessed is the one who finds wisdom.'</i> Proverbs 3:13</p>	<p>Trust <i>'Trust in the Lord and do good.'</i> Psalm 37:3</p>	<p>Friendship <i>'Love your neighbour as yourself'</i> Mark 1:2</p>

**OVERVIEW**

Collective worship is the unique heartbeat of a Church school and is offered as part of a wider opportunity for pupils and adults to encounter faith by engaging in conversations about God, both as individuals and together. The law requires all schools to provide a daily act of collective worship / spiritual reflection that is on most occasions wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian nature. In Church schools the requirement is to reflect the Anglican status of the school as expressed in its trust deed. At St Silas CE Primary School, we meet these requirements in full. Where parents and carers request it, their children will be withdrawn from collective worship / spiritual reflection and alternative arrangements will be made for them.

**OBJECTIVES**

Collective worship at St Silas CE Primary School will do the following:

1. Explore the school's vision and how that underpins shared values and virtues. In doing so, it will reflect on the school's Christian values (excellence, endurance, friendship, trust and wisdom) as well as other moral values such as compassion, gratitude, justice, humility, forgiveness and reconciliation; and develop virtues such as resilience, determination and creativity that develop character and contribute to academic progress.
2. Help pupils and adults to appreciate the relevance of faith in today's world by encountering the teachings of Jesus and the Bible and developing understanding of the Christian belief in the trinitarian nature of God.
3. Offer the opportunity, without compulsion, to all pupils and adults to grow spiritually through experiences of prayer, stillness, worship and reflection.
4. Enable all pupils and adults to appreciate that Christians worship in different ways, for example using music, silence, story, prayer, reflection, as well as through the varied liturgical and other traditions of Anglican worship and festivals.
5. Enable pupils to develop skills through engaging in the planning, leading and evaluation of collective worship in ways that lead to improving practice.

## STRATEGIES

1. Collective worship at St Silas Church of England Primary School is built around the premise of 'open doors and warm fires'. By this, we mean that everyone should feel included and able to join in at a level which is safe and comfortable for them and that everyone should be able to connect with acts of worship in a meaningful way.
2. We offer different forms of collective worship, all of which are of a distinctly Christian nature, and all of which sensitively take the context of our school community into consideration. Children participate in a weekly collective worship led by the headteacher as well as a weekly collective worship led by an outreach worker from St Philemon's Church. We also come together for a weekly singing worship as well as a weekly class worship. On Fridays, we join together for a weekly celebration worship, where we celebrate each other's successes and achievements as well as giving thanks for all the opportunities we have been given to live life in all its fullness.
3. In addition to our weekly worship, classes take it in turn to lead worship for the whole school community based on one of our Christian values; we also mark important events in the Christian calendar with sessions of worship for the whole school community.
4. At St Silas CE Primary School, we use the shared language of 'Windows, Mirrors and Doors' within collective worship. The window represents looking outwardly at the world (new learning); the mirror represents internal reflection and consideration of oneself (meaning for me); and the door represents the action that we take as a result (impact).
5. Pupils will be given opportunities to plan, participate in, lead and evaluate worship / spiritual reflection.
6. On special occasions, our worship / spiritual reflection will be linked to Christian and other festivals, e.g. Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, Harvest, Ramadan, Eid and Diwali . These will be a particular focus for different classes at different points of the year.
7. Additional 'Experience Days' and other special services are planned throughout the year to deepen and extend pupils' understanding of the Christian Faith and key special occasions in the Church calendar.

## OUTCOMES

Through different kinds of collective worship, children at St Silas CE Primary School will have the opportunity to further their spiritual development; be still and reflect; explore their relationship with God, express praise and thanksgiving to God, explore the big questions of life and respond to national events; foster respect; reflect on the character of God and on the teachings of Christ; affirm Christian values and attitudes; share each other's joys and challenges; and celebrate special times in the Christian calendar.