



St. Luke's CEVA Primary School

Collective Worship Policy

Adopted Autumn 23

Review Date Autumn 24

Aspiring to be just and kind

Walking humbly with God

Growing with every opportunity



At St. Luke's, we are committed to fostering a community built on justice, kindness, service and respect, ensuring that everyone—regardless of background—is treated with dignity, warmth, and fairness. We are a Church of England VA School and we welcome all faiths.

We strive to embed a positive approach to our relationships which is evident in our behaviour in and out of school. We believe in restorative justice, to emphasise respect and reconciliation for all.

Our goal is to inspire pupils to make ethical choices and become agents of change, both within their own communities and beyond. We provide an environment where all individuals can flourish, experiencing a life-enhancing encounter with the Christian faith and Jesus Christ.

With hearts of compassion, we encourage service to others, extending kindness and support both within our school and the wider world. Through an excellent and broad-based curriculum, we ignite enthusiasm, energy, and dedication, empowering pupils to fully grow within their learning journey.

We prioritise diverse opportunities in sports, music, the arts, technology, and culture, supporting pupils' spiritual, moral, social, and personal development. We encourage pupils to grow in the 'fruits of the Spirit'—love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, humility, and self-control.

Our pupils grow with every opportunity and flourish spiritually.

Collective Worship Policy for St. Luke's CEVA Primary School

Collective Worship - legal requirements

The School Standards and Framework Act 1998 (Section 70 and Schedule 20) requires that:

- All registered pupils (apart from those whose parents exercise the right to withdrawal) must on "each school day, take part in an act of collective worship".
- The daily act of collective worship should be conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Trust Deeds of the school and the ethos statement in the Instrument of Government, and should be consistent with the beliefs and practices of the Church of England.
- The governing body should ensure that all pupils each day engage meaningfully in a real act of Christian worship which is in accordance with the faith and practice of the Church.
- All acts of collective worship in Church schools must be Christian in character.

Collective Worship - aims

St. Luke's is a Church of England Voluntary Aided School and as such aims to serve its community by providing an education of the highest quality within the context of Christian belief and practice. It encourages an understanding of the significance of faith and promotes the school's Christian vision and values through the experience it offers to all its pupils. During collective worship the school aims to:

- Explore the school's vision and how that underpins shared values and virtues. In doing so, it will reflect on moral values such as justice, kindness, respect and humility and develop virtues such as resilience, determination and creativity that develop character and contribute to growth
- 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.
- Offer the opportunity, without compulsion, to all pupils and adults to grow spiritually through experiences of prayer, stillness, worship and reflection.
- Enable all pupils and adults to appreciate 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, festivals and, where appropriate, the Eucharist
- Enable pupils to develop skills through engaging in the planning, leading and evaluation of collective worship in ways that lead to improving practice.

Collective Worship - organisation (inspiring, inclusive, invitational)

Monday	9.45am 2.45pm	Y2-6 - worship and prayer assembly Yr-Y1
Tuesday	9.45am	Whole School - Church assembly, based on half term topic
Wednesday	9.45am 2.45pm	Y2-6 - worship and prayer assembly Yr-Y1
Thursday	9.45am 2.45pm	Y2-6 - worship and prayer assembly Yr-Y1
Friday	9.00am	Whole School - reflection and celebration assembly

The school holds a daily act of collective worship which is led by a member of staff, clergy or visitors and supported by pupils. This act of worship follows a set pattern of practice and the school endeavours to ensure that it reinforces the schools vision and core Christian values; that it encourages reflective and analytical thinking; that it is appropriate to all; that it contributes to the overarching life of the school; that it encourages engagement and application and that it enables beliefs to be confirmed or challenged. The school uses a selection of materials to enable us to focus on the person and teaching of Jesus as found in the Bible, our vision and core Christian values and Courageous Advocacy. The beginning of each act of collective worship is marked by the positioning of the Bible, the cross and the lighting of the candle to indicate the Trinitarian nature of God. Each act of collective worship is opened and closed with Christian prayer or a time of reflection and may involve the singing of Christian worship songs and hymns.

The normal pattern of collective worship may be adjusted to facilitate visiting speakers, the celebration of special days, Christian festivals and class assemblies. These adjustments will be recorded in the medium term planning.

Collective Worship - inspiring

At St. Luke's we aim for our worship to be inspiring, enabling pupils and adults to ask big questions about who we are and why we do what we do. We aim to motivate pupils and adults into thinking differently and reflecting on their behaviour and the behaviour and actions of the wider community. We aim for worship, guided by our desire to be just and kind and to walk humbly with God, to inspire growth in every aspect of our lives. The themes of worship are often linked to our Courageous Advocacy agenda, encouraging pupils to think carefully about how they can put their faith and belief into action. We want our worship to meet the needs of all pupils, staff and parents, wherever they are on their journey of faith and belief.

Collective Worship - inclusive

St Luke's is aware that acts of collective worship should be age appropriate and seeks to provide access points for children of all key stages when the whole school meets together. Children also meet for key stage acts of collective worship and may have class assemblies if themes are age group specific.

St. Luke's recognises that its pupils come from a variety of different family backgrounds, including those from Christian families, families with different faiths and families with no faith. As a school we feel it is important that acts of collective worship should include content that all pupils can access and feel inspired or challenged by, content that promotes both faith and the pupils spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. Within collective worship pupils are given the opportunity to think and ask questions, there is space for consent and dissent and the sharing of opinions. Care is always taken to challenge stereotypes and intolerances. St Luke's aims to ensure that prayer is invitational rather than compulsory and that an alternative reflection time is sensitively offered so that all can be involved.

St. Luke's aims to facilitate the involvement of our pupils with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) by ensuring appropriate staffing for collective worship times, including, where necessary, the use of aids such as fiddle toys, sensory cushions and headphones. St Luke's recognises that there needs to be a level of flexibility built in to cater for individual needs and aptitudes.

Inclusion requires pupil involvement in planning, leading and evaluating worship and our Religious Education and Collective Worship Ambassadors play an active and developmental role in these areas. Care is taken to ensure that songs sung during collective worship are understood by all the children and that they reflect the diversity of traditions, churchmanship and cultures in our school.

All staff who lead collective worship will avoid assuming faith in all those participating, listening and watching.

Collective Worship - Invitational

Parents, pupils and adults can expect to encounter worship that is consistently invitational. There will be no compulsion to 'do anything'. Rather, worship should provide an opportunity to engage whilst allowing freedom for those with different faiths and those who profess no religious faith to be present and take part with integrity. Pupils and adults will be invited to pray if they wish to do so; prayer should always be accompanied by an option to reflect. Music and liturgies used in collective worship should reflect the best of traditional and modern Anglican worship and where possible connect with the theme.

Collective Worship - visitors

Visiting speakers are usually drawn from known sources, for example the Diocese of Chelmsford; local Church of England clergy and leaders from other local churches; visitors recommended by Newham Sacre, for example 'Faith in Schools'; or representatives from established Christian charities such as Stand by Me. All of these visitors are carefully chosen and briefed before the act of worship takes place: they are made aware of the educational context of collective worship; the age and aptitude of the children; the duration of the collective worship and the ethos and values of the school.

Collective Worship - right to withdraw

Parents have the right to withdraw children from collective worship and suitable arrangements must be made to accommodate these children (DFE circular 1/94). Since St. Luke's is a church school however, it is important to note that worship is central to its life and work and is regarded as a very important part of children's education. Requests for withdrawal should be made in writing to the Headteacher, who will then meet with the parents and a representative from the Governing Body to discuss the way forward. To date no children have been withdrawn from collective worship

Collective Worship - evaluation and monitoring

To ensure that the legal requirements are met, and that collective worship promotes children's spiritual, moral, social, cultural (SMSC) and intellectual growth, it is essential that monitoring takes place on a regular basis. In St. Luke's reviews include:

- Monitoring of plans, e.g. taking in weekly planning sheets/slides and checking if they reflect the schools Christian ethos, promote the school's vision and values, SMSC and intellectual growth and if there is sufficient variety
- Monitoring delivery on a half termly basis to consider the general focus and educational aims, SMSC development and the level of inspiration and inclusivity and whether it is invitational
- The use of monitoring to inform training needs and professional development
- Monitoring the numbers of withdrawals from collective worship
- Governors' monitoring checklist for collective worship