All Saints C of E

Infant and Nursery School

Selston C of E

Infant and Nursery School

Collective Worship Policy

Opening hearts and minds through the grace and love of God

Reviewed: September 2026
Next Review Date: September 2028

ALL SAINTS CHURCH OF ENGLAND INFANT AND NURSERY SCHOOL

SELSTON CHURCH OF ENGLAND INFANT AND NURSERY SCHOOL

VISION STATEMENT

Opening hearts and minds through the grace and love of God

At All Saints Infant and Nursery 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 Vision 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.

Policy:	Collective Worship
Approved by:	Local Governing Body
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Review cycle:	2 Yearly

VERSION CONTROL			
VERSION	**DATE**	**AUTHOR**	**CHANGES**
2026	7/9/26	JR	New policy

Collective Worship Policy

Vision and Christian Foundation

At All Saints and Selston Church of England Infant and Nursery Schools, our Christian vision, *Opening Hearts and Minds through the Grace and Love of God,* shapes every aspect of school life. Collective worship is central to this vision and plays a fundamental role in nurturing the spiritual life of our community. It provides a shared, safe space where children and adults can reflect, grow, and encounter the values and teachings that underpin the work of our schools.

Through collective worship, we support pupils and adults to:

- develop an awareness of their own spirituality;
- build meaningful relationships founded on care, compassion, trust, and forgiveness;
- grow in understanding of both themselves and others.

Worship contributes significantly to our aspiration that all pupils and adults leave our schools with open hearts and minds, ready to embrace life in all its fulness.

Aims

Collective worship is the cornerstone of daily life in both schools and is carefully planned to ensure high-quality, meaningful experiences. It is the primary context through which our Christian vision is explored and lived out. While rooted in the teachings of Jesus and the Bible, collective worship recognises that our school communities are made up of individuals from a wide range of backgrounds, faiths and worldviews. We therefore ensure that worship is inclusive, respectful and accessible to all.

The purpose of collective worship is to support the spiritual and personal development of all pupils and adults. It aims to deepen understanding of Christian beliefs and values, provide opportunities for reflection and prayer, and foster a strong sense of belonging and community. Worship also encourages pupils to think about their responsibilities to others, to develop empathy and compassion, and to appreciate the diversity of beliefs within and beyond the school.

In line with Church of England guidance, collective worship is inclusive, invitational and inspiring:

Inclusive

- Welcomes all pupils and adults regardless of faith or belief.
- Reflects the diversity of the school community.
- Is accessible and appropriate for infant and nursery-aged children.

Invitational

- Offers opportunities for prayer and reflection without compulsion.
- Encourages personal engagement in a safe and respectful environment.

Inspiring

- Engages children through storytelling, music, symbols and stillness.
- Nurtures awe, wonder, and curiosity.

It provides an opportunity for pupils and staff to encounter the transforming power of the Christian story, to reflect on life's deeper questions and to engage with prayer and stillness in a way that is always invitational rather than compulsory. Worship allows space for celebration, reflection and spiritual growth so that people flourish.

Legal Requirements

Both schools meet their statutory responsibilities under the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 by providing a daily act of collective worship for all pupils. As Church of England schools, worship is distinctly Christian in character and reflects Anglican traditions and practices. Collective worship is separate from Religious Education, though both contribute to the overall Christian ethos of the schools.

Organisation and Practice

Collective worship takes place daily and is organised in a variety of ways, including whole-school gatherings, class-based reflection and special services in church at key points in the Christian year. This variety ensures that worship remains engaging and appropriate for all ages, particularly for our youngest children.

Worship is led by members of staff, school leaders, clergy and invited visitors who support and uphold the Christian ethos of the schools. Pupils are also given opportunities, where appropriate, to contribute to and engage with worship, helping them to develop a sense of ownership and participation.

Each act of worship is thoughtfully structured and typically includes a focus on a Christian value or theme, often linked to the church calendar or HeartSmart principles. Bible stories and teachings are presented in ways that are accessible to young children, alongside opportunities for music, reflection, and prayer. Time for stillness is an important feature, allowing pupils and adults to pause and reflect in a calm and supportive environment.

The environment for worship is carefully created using music, symbols and focal points to help establish a sense of reverence and significance, while remaining welcoming and appropriate for young learners.

Planning, Content and Detail

The long-term collective worship plan specifies what will be covered each half term. Each worship time contains four main elements:

1. Gathering

Drawing into worship, creating a distinctive atmosphere and 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 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

Contribution to Spiritual Development

Collective worship at All Saints and Selston Church of England Infant and Nursery Schools provides a rich and nurturing space for spiritual development through the 'In, Out, Up' model of spirituality. We believe spirituality helps pupils and adults make connections with themselves (In), with others and the wider world (Out), and with God or something beyond themselves (Up).

Through collective worship, children are encouraged to explore their thoughts, feelings, values and sense of identity (In); develop compassion, empathy and appreciation of the world around them (Out); and encounter Christian faith, prayer, worship and opportunities to reflect on their relationship with God (Up).

We recognise that spirituality is experienced and expressed in different ways, and our approach reflects this through the use of infant-friendly spiritual pathways that enable every child to engage meaningfully. Children may encounter spirituality as naturalists, experiencing awe and wonder in nature and creation; as sensates, responding to beauty through light, sound, music and sensory experiences; or as contemplatives, engaging in stillness, prayer and reflection. Others may connect as questioners, exploring life's big questions through stories and discussion, or as enthusiasts, expressing joy and wonder through music, movement and celebration. Some children may engage as caregivers or activists, demonstrating spirituality through acts of kindness, responsibility and service to others.

Opportunities for stillness, reflection, storytelling, prayer, creativity and celebration are carefully woven throughout collective worship, helping children to reflect on themselves (In), deepen their relationships with others and the world (Out), and explore faith and encounters with God (Up). Through this inclusive and varied approach, collective worship supports every pupil and adult on their own spiritual journey, enabling them to flourish spiritually and develop a growing sense of wonder, connection and purpose.

Contribution to Wider School Life

Collective worship also plays a vital role in promoting pupils' moral, social and cultural development. It reinforces the Christian values that underpin behaviour and relationships, and expectations across the schools. Worship also contributes to the development of respect for others, encouraging children to value difference and build an inclusive community.

Through both Christian teaching and programmes such as HeartSmart, collective worship supports children in developing resilience, empathy and a strong moral framework. It also contributes to the promotion of British values, particularly mutual respect, tolerance and a sense of shared responsibility within the community.

The Role of HeartSmart

At both schools, collective worship is enriched using the HeartSmart programme, which supports children's emotional wellbeing and personal development within a Christian framework. HeartSmart aligns closely with our vision and values, offering children practical and meaningful ways to understand themselves, relate to others, and make positive choices.

Through collective worship, HeartSmart themes of love, service, forgiveness, truth and endurance are explored in the light of Christian teaching. Children are encouraged to recognise their own worth, understand that they are loved and valued and develop the skills needed to build positive relationships. This integration ensures that worship nurtures not only spiritual development but also emotional resilience and wellbeing, supporting the whole child to flourish.

HeartSmart themes are:

- Get HeartSmart – recognising that we are all created and loved by God (Autumn 1)
- Don't Forget to Let Love In – understanding forgiveness, grace, and love (Autumn 2)
- Too Much Selfie Isn't Healthy – developing humility and valuing others (Spring 1)
- Don't Rub It In, Rub It Out – practising forgiveness (Spring 2)
- Fake is a Mistake – encouraging honesty and integrity (Summer 1)
- No Way Through Isn't True – building hope and resilience (Summer 2)

Our Christian Values

Christian Value	Biblical Reference	HeartSmart	Link to British Values *(including some that don't appear on the Government's official list - in italics)*
Love	**1 John 4:16** 'God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them.'	**Don't forget to let love in**	**Democracy -** a system built on respect for the value, views and needs of every individual. **Mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs -** understanding that we don't all share the same beliefs and values. Respecting those values, ideas and beliefs of others whilst not imposing our own onto them.
Service	**John 13:14-15** '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.'	**Too much selfie isn't healthy**	**Individual liberty -** protection of your rights and responsibilities and those of the people around you. ***Social inclusion*** *– support for the most vulnerable by the rest of the community (a strong tradition in British society, influenced by faith).*
Forgiveness	**Mathew 6:12** 'Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.'	**Don't hold on to what's wrong**	***Justice tempered with mercy*** *– scope for rehabilitation and second chances in the justice system (also influenced by the Christian tradition).*
Truth	**John 8.32** 'The truth will set you free.'	**Fake is a mistake**	**The rule of law –** knowing right from wrong. Knowing the need for rules to make a happy, safe and secure environment to live and work.
Endurance	**1 Corinthians 13.7** 'Love never gives up.'	**No way through isn't true**	

The Right of Withdrawal

We recognise and fully respect the legal right of parents and carers to withdraw their child from collective worship, as established in the Education Act 1944 and reaffirmed in the School Standards and Framework Act 1998.

In line with current guidance, the process for withdrawal is straightforward and does not require parents and carers to provide a reason. Requests for withdrawal will always be respected and acted upon promptly. Parents and carers are able to make a request in writing, and the school will keep a clear record of the request and the arrangements made.

While there is no expectation for discussion, the school may offer an optional conversation to ensure that parents and carers are fully informed about the nature and purpose of collective worship and to explore practical arrangements for their child. This will never be a condition of granting withdrawal.

For pupils who are withdrawn, appropriate alternative arrangements will be made. These will be supervised, purposeful and designed to ensure that children do not feel excluded or stigmatised. Where appropriate, pupils may still participate in non-religious aspects of school celebrations in a way that is sensitive and inclusive.

We are committed to being open and transparent about our provision for collective worship. Information is shared with parents and carers through school documentation and the website, and opportunities may be offered for parents and carers to observe worship if they wish. This openness does not affect the unconditional right to withdraw.

Roles and Responsibilities

The governing body and school leaders are responsible for ensuring that collective worship is of high quality, legally compliant and reflective of the schools' Christian foundation. Staff play a key role in planning and delivering worship, modelling values, and supporting pupils' engagement. The local church and clergy contribute to strengthening the Christian character of worship and maintaining strong links with the wider community.

Pupils are encouraged, where appropriate, to take part and respond, helping to create a shared and meaningful experience for all.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Collective worship is regularly monitored and evaluated by school leaders, governors, and, where appropriate, pupils. This may include observation of worship, discussion with pupils and adults, and reflection on its impact. Findings are used to continually develop and strengthen provision and to inform the school's ongoing self-evaluation.

Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed regularly in line with the school cycle to ensure it remains current and effective.