

Collective Worship Policy

St. Lawrence CE (VA)
Primary School

With
Little Lawrences

Napton

A happy church school that nurtures the unique talents of individuals and brings them together so that 'they will soar on wings like eagles' (Isaiah 40:31)

Revised
September 2019

As a Voluntary Aided Church of England school, worship is a central feature of the life of the school. We seek to include all staff, children and the wider community, as far as possible. This may be through attendance at, participation in and leadership of school worship.

We generally call our gatherings 'assemblies', but there is always worship as a central element. There may be other features of an assembly, however, which also support the overall ethos of the school.

Aims

In school worship we aim:

1. to affirm our identity as a church school.
2. to enjoy a variety of forms of Christian worship.
3. to recognise the integrity and dignity of all members of the school.
4. to celebrate being part of God's world.
5. to provide time for silence, stillness and reflection.
6. to invite children and adults to share and develop their personal faith experiences.
7. to encourage children and the wider school community to be advocates for justice, equality and reconciliation in our world.

The school will be sensitive to differing Christian emphases. Children will take part in an assembly, including worship, collectively at least once each day of the school week.

Worship through prayers are also said before lunches are eaten and at the end of the school day.

Worship and prayer times will be of a Christian in nature based on Anglican principles. The cycle of the Anglican year will be observed e.g. Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter and Pentecost.

This may be "whole school" or class or key stage based. Assembly themes for the week are in place, however there is flexibility in this as the member of staff or other visiting person – the "leader" – can follow their own theme if it is more appropriate for any reason and follows Anglican principles. Leaders from other Christian churches are encouraged.

Assembly Timetable

Assemblies are held at 10.25 am on Mondays – Thursdays and at 9.05 am on Fridays (one for the main school and one for Little Lawrences). All parents are welcome to join us on Fridays though some are especially invited via email on a Thursday evening.

The wider community and parents are welcome to join us on Tuesdays for Sung Worship and Orchestra.

Assemblies and worship will on planned occasions take place with the wider community through for example with the Coventry Diocese, Messy Church, Remembrance and local church events such as Christingle.

On the last day of each term we hold a special Head Teacher's assembly at 1.45pm or 2pm with parents in attendance.

Monday – *Whole School Church Assembly* – led by a member of the church community as coordinated by Revd Gillian Roberts. These follow agreed themes that include: Christian Values, the Liturgical Year and references to the RE Curriculum including the headline themes within 'Understanding Christianity'. Those that lead or have led Christian lives (including saints) are also referenced in planning as appropriate. References to the Bible (both Old and New Testaments) are regularly planned for. Speakers and assembly leaders representing those who advocate for others are invited to join these assemblies regularly as is appropriate to the themes.

Church is visited for services at least 4 times a year on Mondays starting at 9:45am. Parents and the wider community are always invited and warmly welcomed. The orchestra and volunteer choir will assist Revd Gillian with worship. Services are expected to include clear elements of Anglican Liturgy and Prayer.

Tuesday – *Whole School Sung Worship and Orchestra*. Led by the Headteacher but inclusive of other staff members, volunteers and of course the children. *Members of the community are welcome to join in.* Hymns and songs follow the liturgical year and reference the themes of our Monday assemblies.

Wednesday – *Class Based Assemblies* with a PSHE theme with prayer and/or song/reflection opportunity. A candle should always be projected or lit as part of this assembly.

Thursday – *Phase Assemblies* – led predominantly by the senior teachers. These follow on the themes of the Monday assemblies. These will on occasions involve drama, workshops, displays and always aim to show how themes can be practically lived. Plans are published in the staff room.

Friday – Achievement Assemblies. These are led by the head teacher, but do involve most other teachers in different ways. They start with worship (signalled with a lit candle) - with the orchestra and through prayers. Liturgical colours feature on the altar. This will be followed by 'Stars of the week' (parents are invited for this award) as well as other awards that have been presented to the office by the end of the previous day. The assembly (lasting just over ½ hr if at all possible) ends with a prayer. *All parents are welcome to join us - even if their child is not receiving a specific award.*

Little Lawrences have their own shorter version lead by the EY Senior Teacher.

Please note that other assemblies from outside bodies will on occasions feature and replace a Wednesday or Thursday assembly.

Two children from Y5 prepare the hall (benches, chairs, computer, screen, music stands, the playing of recorded music) 10 minutes before the start of the assemblies.

All school staff are very welcome to join every assembly. Teachers are expected to do so on Mondays and Fridays, and as timetabled.

Assembly will normally start with the leader greeting the children who respond, followed by the hymn/song or prayer.

We have a cross, candles and other items which are used on different occasions as a central focus during worship. The colour of the tablecloth is reflects the cycle of the church year. The hall has large Christian murals in it and on occasions a prayer board, which may be use for additional focus.

A variety of presentations keeps worship fresh!

Teaching of Christianity can be through real life experiences and through stories. It will often include Bible teaching and references to Bible stories.

It should include worship through prayer, thought and/or reflection, encouraging wonder and curiosity. Over time it will continue to contribute to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural education of the pupils, in different ways.

There are some weeks when children contribute to the assembly. They always play a significant role in leading worship in the church services. These are led by the **Worship Leaders** group, who have representatives from each class from Y1 to Y6.

It is important that we as individuals share something of our own spirituality with each other. School worship should be sensitive. Personal values and beliefs of others should be respected and indoctrination avoided. The place a Christian faith has in the live of people will be recognised.

Planning for Worship

The Head Teacher/nominated **Worship Leader** attends termly planning meeting with Revd Gillian and the church team. The plans are then adapted by the worship coordinator (currently the head teacher) in consultation with the RE Coordinator, to fit with the school's assemblies. All plans are published in the staffroom.

Any individual leading an assembly uses the published plans, and creates their own more detailed version.

Records and Evaluation

Evaluation is an integral part of the planning of assemblies. The views of pupils and staff (both formally and informally) are regularly asked for. Views are recorded by teachers and through questionnaires on a regular basis.

Prayer

Our School Prayer:

Dear Lord Jesus,
Please bless our school and everyone in it
Help us to work together
And play together
And to grow more like you each day.

The Lord's Prayer is also shared together on a regular basis.

Children are encouraged to write their own prayers– some of which are shared in assemblies and church services: others in the classrooms. Grace will be said by the children and staff before lunch either in the dining room or the classroom as decided for organisational purposes.

In KS1 and in Larks 'n' Owls, the following prayer is shared:

For every cup and plateful,

Lord make us truly grateful.

Amen.

In KS2, the following prayer is shared:

Bless us O God as we sit together.

Bless the food we eat today,

Bless the hands that made the food and

Bless us O God.

Amen

A prayer is said in the classroom at the end of the school day (often the main school prayer but we welcome any that are deemed to be fitting including those written or spoken by the children).

Right of Withdrawal

St Lawrence's is a church school and worship is at the very heart of what the school is about. However, parents can withdraw their children from collective worship for personal reasons. They must discuss this with the Headteacher. If a child is withdrawn he or she must be supervised and other suitable work must be given.

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