



## St Saviour's Collective Worship Policy

Ratified: Summer 2021 – Next Review Summer 2022

St. Saviour's biblical vision is Romans 12 vs 2: 'Let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think.'

### Aims

- Give expression to the common vision and values which are consistent with God's values, as revealed in Jesus Christ.
- Strengthen and support the school community and celebrate each unique individual member made in the image of God.
- Give expression, to reaffirm and practise the vision and values of the school community.
- Allow reflection and response to fundamental questions.
- Celebrate and give thanks for achievements.
- Foster and enable a concern for the needs of others.
- Encourage an awareness of the global Christian community
- Encourage an awareness of other faiths and beliefs through the teachings of Jesus
- Give children an opportunity to acquire a secure knowledge of the Christian faith as revealed in the Bible and to grow in prayer.
- Enable people from across the whole range of Christian spirituality and commitment a chance to reflect and engage.
- Enable children to recognise and appreciate the schools' vision: **transforming growth, where Christian education inspires children and adults for achievement in the whole of life** (from school vision document).
- Enable children to recognise and appreciate the schools' Christian values: **love, truth, respect, forgiveness, faith, serenity and tenacity.**
- Enable children to engage with the Eucharist in creative and innovative ways.
- Enable children to take a considerable lead in the development of worship within the school.
- Enable children to become courageous advocates to serve our community.
- Develop universal leadership and learn global competencies to lead and actively engage with others on mutual respect and acceptance.

### Organisation

- Dates and themes are highlighted on a termly basis and then shared with staff.
- One of our seven Christian Values is celebrated each week through assembly – and also reinforced in the weekly newsletter.
- The Worship Council children are involved in presenting worship – through assisting with the presentation of songs and PowerPoints, lighting the candle, giving out stickers to role models or reading prayers.
- Church clergy lead our Thursday assemblies, linked to the theme for the week.
- Through the pursuit of an inclusive approach, we want parents and children to understand that worship is an occasion where each individual's integrity is respected. Parents and carers are invited in to take part in Collective Worship every Monday and Friday.
- The worship of God is at the heart of school life and there is a normal expectation that pupils participate in the worship. However, the right to withdraw pupils from worship is available under Section 25 of the Education Act 1944.
- Children are encouraged to use the prayer boxes and reflection books in classrooms and in the hall.
- Members of the school community are encouraged to write in the Book of Reflection after each assembly.

### People & Worship

- The Headteacher oversees the school worship programme, which is planned in collaboration with the worship leader and the parish priest.
- It is expected that the senior leadership team will regularly lead worship in school
- It is expected that all teaching staff will be involved in leading worship.
- Many other church leaders and lay Christians, beyond the incumbent of St Saviour's, are invited in to lead worship.
- Visiting speakers will be given guidelines regarding assembly procedures and theme/value.

### Patterns of Worship

- Whole school worship takes place at the start of each day and is organised in accordance with the current agreed schedule:  
Monday – teacher-led assembly  
Tuesday – singing assembly  
Wednesday – values assembly  
Thursday – church clergy-led assembly  
Friday –celebration assembly
- We attend a monthly mass where Christian festivals are celebrated and in which year groups take a part in leading worship.
- The content should reflect the range of ages and abilities present and reflect the theme and/or occasion in a creative and relevant fashion.
- Where school notices are required they take place at an appropriate time in the assembly.
- In addition to assemblies, pupils and staff also say a prayer before lunch and a going home prayer at the end of the day.

### In the Curriculum

- Worship lies at the heart of our school life.
- Our worship involves the children in a wide range of aesthetic, ethical, linguistic, social, physical and spiritual activities.
- This school recognises that planning worship, as with all curriculum preparation, needs to take account of how pupils learn and think.
- The quality of communal life at our school and the richness of personal relationships within it are both enhanced by worship and given a deeper meaning by it.

### Worship Issues

- We encourage the children to be aware of and sensitive to the spiritual dimension of life and how Christians understand God as central to that.
- In all our acts of worship we actively foster a prayerful atmosphere, one of reverence.
- Collective worship will be Christian in focus and content, although examples or illustrations from other faiths may be appropriate.
- Collective worship will always have an awareness of the diversity of our school community, including the presence of those who hold no faith commitment but remain sympathetic to the Christian ethos of the school.
- Other faiths are welcomed at St Saviour's and while such children/families are encouraged to attend Church, if they – or non-faith families – do not wish to attend, this wish is respected.
- Communal worship areas within the school space have been set up for all children as an area for reflection, taking in consideration the diversity of the school community.

### Monitoring

- A record is to be kept each week of all assembly activities.
- Children will be given the opportunity to reflect on collective worship and will be invited to record their reflection in the Worship Reflection journal
- This evidence, along with any external monitoring conducted by the Diocesan RE Adviser and Section 48 inspections, enables the school to remain well informed about the effectiveness of its policy and practice in this area. Reviews of the materials leads to any changes required.