



Leverstock Green CE (VC) Primary School

Striving for excellence; caring for the individual.

Collective Worship Policy

Leverstock Green CofE (VC) Primary School

Policy Review

The policy was last reviewed and agreed by the Governing Body on 7th June 2023

It is due for review in June 2026.

Signature
Head Teacher

Date 7/6/23

Signature
Chair of Governors

Date 7/6/23

For you are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.
Galatians 3:26



Leverstock Green CE (VC) Primary School

Striving for excellence; caring for the individual.

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

Background to Collective Worship at our school

It is a legal requirement that all registered school age children take part in an act of worship each day. In a voluntary controlled school, the nature of collective worship is defined by the Governing Body.

Our school's vision scripture is 'For you are all the children of God, by faith in Christ Jesus.' (Galatians 3:26) We believe that everyone is welcome in our school, regardless of faith, race, cultural heritage or any other protected characteristic.

Families who send their children to this school come from a variety of backgrounds. Some are from practising Christian families; others are 'nominally Christian'. In addition there are children from religions other than Christianity and some from non-religious backgrounds. In our Collective Worship, we make children aware of the Christian foundation upon which the school is based and exists but we recognise that we need to consider the backgrounds our children come from and we do not seek to convert the children. The faith background of the staff and the child's family is respected.

The right of parents to withdraw their children from that act of collective worship is enshrined in the 1988 Education Act. Any parent who wishes to exercise that right should consult the Head Teacher in the first instance. Children whose parents have exercised the right to withdraw a child from Collective Worship may send something in for them to do. All staff attend worship and may withdraw for religious reasons only.

Collective Worship

Worship from within a faith tradition has a very specific definition. As a Voluntary Controlled Church of England school we are entitled to make our own definition of Collective Worship. In doing so we need to respect the Christian basis of our school and the variety of backgrounds from which our children come. All faiths share many of the characteristics of Christianity. It is, however, important to reflect the special status accorded to Jesus Christ and how this is interpreted especially in the Anglican tradition. For this purpose we have a worship table with cloths in liturgical colours, a cross, candle and Bible, and varying arrangements reflective of the church seasons.

Our worship then encompasses what is offered in a spirit of admiration, celebration and respect for God and/or people of excellence, worthy of honour and by extension to concepts, principles and conduct that are worthy of celebration as examples of the highest achievements of the human spirit. Worship draws on scriptures, especially the Bible, as well as literature, music, art, drama, the language of prayer and other sources of inspiration and reflection for pupils and staff whose religious and cultural backgrounds are of any faith or none. This makes our worship inclusive not exclusive.

For you are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.

Galatians 3:26



Leverstock Green CE (VC) Primary School

Striving for excellence; caring for the individual.

Values and Aims

We believe that collective worship both supports and strengthens what we aim to do in every aspect of school life. Our caring ethos and the value we place on the development of the whole child; spiritually, morally, culturally and intellectually is reflected in our worship. We value this special time in the school day to develop a reflective approach to life and the ability to express our reflections in traditionally religious ways or any other appropriate manner.

Through our collective worship we aim to provide a caring and supporting environment for children to:

- become aware of the wonder and mystery of the world and people
- reflect on their own experience and the experience of others
- grow in understanding of the feelings and beliefs of other people in everyday situations
- have the opportunity to respond to religious and/or spiritual stimulus
- become increasingly aware of themselves as individuals and groups within the school and wider community, respect diversity and affirm each person's life stance whether it be religious or not
- grow in confidence when making a presentation to the group or whole school

Objectives

We see this time as an opportunity to encourage our children to

- show an interest in, and a concern for, members of the school and wider community
- celebrate special occasions (including religious festivals) together
- show concern for the daily happenings in school life, the local community, the wider world
- share appreciation of worthwhile projects undertaken by groups in the school
- explore and review the attitudes, values and standards manifested in religions and society
- reflect on the dimensions of human life - the wonderful, beautiful, joyful, heroic, humorous, tragic etc
- reflect on the way in which humankind has expressed the deepest spiritual feelings - through the creative arts, scientific discovery, religious practice, service to God and other people
- develop awareness and experience of the use of symbols to express feelings and beliefs.

Planning

We combine our acts of worship with assembly. The main school, from Year 1 to Year 6 meets together each day. Children from Reception join as soon as they are ready during their first year. Children from the school Nursery join the rest of the school once a half-term along with Reception children.

For you are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.

Galatians 3:26



Leverstock Green CE (VC) Primary School

Striving for excellence; caring for the individual.

	Theme	Assembly leader	In attendance
Monday	*	Headteacher	All teaching staff
Tuesday	*	SLT	Teacher rota + 1:1 LSAs
Wednesday	Sing a New Song	Music teacher	+ 2 support staff
Thursday	*	Vicar or Church representative	All staff and the wider community
Friday	Celebrating work	Headteacher or member of SLT	All class-based staff

* The themes of the assemblies are sometimes based on the three year diocesan cycle and also recommended published resources, such as 'Roots and Fruits'. Other themes throughout the year may arise; these may be seasonal, topical (possibly news related) or explore stories from other religions or support national and international events. There is always room for spontaneity within the planned themes to make worship relevant to the pupils' lives.

The whole school attends Holy Trinity church for services during the school year at Harvest, Christmas, Easter and end of the school year.

We believe the right atmosphere is crucial to the quality of the worship. We plan the time so that there is a variety in content and methods allowing opportunity for quiet personal reflection/worship.

We choose from a variety of methods including

- pupil's contributions
- sacred and secular stories/readings/poetry
- dialogue/creative silence
- prayer/meditation/songs/hymns/music
- artefacts/natural materials/visual aids/focal points
- drama
- visitors

Songs/Hymns/Music

Music is a very powerful means of creating a worshipful atmosphere and unifies and uplifts the school community. We have a bank of music from which to draw, taken from a variety of cultures and genres. The songs and hymns we sing are similarly varied. We select our songs/music to match the theme of the day.

During Sing a New Song we take time to consider carefully the words of one of the songs and make this into a worshipful experience by reflecting on and responding to that song.

For you are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.

Galatians 3:26



Leverstock Green CE (VC) Primary School

Striving for excellence; caring for the individual.

Prayer

Prayer is an integral part of worship and is a good way of enabling children to focus their thoughts. Children are not expected to address God directly if they do not wish to, but they are expected to be respectful of those that do. There are various forms of introduction to prayer which can give opportunity for all to participate and not feel excluded, e.g. 'And now in a moment of stillness, listen to the words of a well known Muslim/Hindu/Jewish prayer'. In this way we are able to use prayers from many traditions. In addition we have a prayer tree for children to write and express their own personal prayers during the week, and these are incorporated in our Thursday worship. Children are given opportunities to lead prayers and RE Ambassadors are encouraged to write prayers for special occasions.

It is not always necessary to have a prayer read out and the use of moments of silence provides us with opportunities for pupils to respond in a personal way if they wish.

Community

We warmly invite parents, carers and the wider community to join us in worship at Holy Trinity Church and once a week in school. We seek to have leaders from different Christian denominations lead and participate in our collective worship throughout the year.

Woodland Worship

We hold a monthly Woodland Worship in the school grounds and in partnership with local Holy Trinity Church. Led by Revd. Lizzie Hood, a school governor and a parent, the sessions immerse the young and not so young in the natural world, stimulating every sense, and providing hands-on activities in a unique form of worship and spiritual enrichment.

Minimal liturgy around a fire pit provides a simple framework for prayer, teaching, an activity, reflection and an opening and closing song, with worshippers enjoying a final treat of toasted marshmallows, hot chocolate and other seasonal delights.

Spirituality

In keeping with our Christian ethos, our core values of love, respect and forgiveness underpin our planning of worship and all children encouraged to develop an understanding and appreciation of spirituality in age-appropriate ways.

Success Criteria

At Leverstock Green School we evaluate our acts of worship against some of the following:

- involvement, enjoyment, attention, reaction of the children
- the growth of respect and tolerance within the school community
- positive response to shared experience
- a contribution to individual and community sense of well being
- a sense of occasion
- a sense of challenge
- a place in the overall plan of the school
- enrichment of children's experiences

For you are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.

Galatians 3:26

