



Collective Worship Policy  
Diocese of St. Albans

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## Rationale

At Silsoe Church of England VC Lower School, daily worship based on Christian principles, will provide spiritual, social, cultural and moral guidance to all children within the security of the whole school or key stage group. We believe that collective worship should inform, guide, encourage and challenge children and adults to think beyond the literal and tangible and that a well prepared and well-delivered act of worship should create the environment for reflection, spirituality, praise and worship.

## Aims

All acts of worship within school will aim to provide the opportunity for our pupils to: -

- Worship God
- Reflect on values that are of a distinctly Christian nature
- Develop a community spirit, a common ethos and shared values
- Consider moral and spiritual issues
- Enjoy and respond to the worship offered

## The Statutory Duty of the School

- The school must provide daily collective worship for registered pupils (apart from those who have been withdrawn by their parents).
- The Head Teacher is responsible (under the School Standards and Framework Act 1998) for arranging the collective worship after consulting with the Governing Board.
- Daily collective worship must be wholly or mainly Christian in character.
- In voluntary controlled schools such as Silsoe, collective worship should be in accordance with the trust deed.

Silsoe Lower School is an LA maintained school but its historic foundation was by the Church of England.

### Ethos Statement

Recognising its historic foundation, the school will preserve and develop its religious character in partnership with the Church of England at parish and diocesan level.

The school aims to serve the whole community by providing an education of the highest quality. It aims to promote Christian values and respect for differing values and cultural diversity through the experiences it offers its pupils.

## Implementation

- Collective worship will be predominantly Christian. Other religions will always be treated with respect.
- Collective worship will take place daily although the actual time may vary, as circumstances or special festivals require.
- Themes for worship will be chosen reflecting a wide variety of approaches. They will celebrate seasonal festivals and changes, consider shared values and follow themes related to a continuing story or the exploration of particular religious' practices.
- Many acts of worship will be Bible based.
- When appropriate, collective worship will respond to international, national and local events and will promote community cohesion.
- Children will not be passive but will be encouraged to be active by participating in appropriate ways. On some occasions pupils or classes will lead the act of worship.
- The incumbent will be encouraged to lead collective worship at the school on a regular basis.
- Ministers from other denominations or visitors representing charities or voluntary organisations will be invited to lead collective worship from time to time.
- Most acts of collective worship will be held in the school building but at festival times such as Harvest, Remembrance Day, Christmas and Easter a special service may be held at St James Church Silsoe. The church will also be involved in special Values celebrations.

## The Style of Collective Worship

Collective worship at Silsoe will provide opportunities for pupils to explore the spiritual dimension of their world.

Therefore, acts of worship may include: -

- A range of starting points and stimuli e.g. Bible stories, pictures, prayers, songs, music, symbols and artefacts.
- Expressions of thankfulness, praise and joy
- Feelings of sadness, compassion and loss if appropriate
- Opportunities for calm and reflection
- Stillness as well as words
- Opportunities to explore ethical and moral questions. There will be room for questions and answers particularly within the more intimate environment of class worship.

### Monitoring and Evaluation

A record of all acts of worship will be kept. Staff will review the effectiveness and impact of the worship programme annually. Pupils will be involved in this review process. The Head Teacher will report to the Governing Board and the Governing Board will review this policy every three years.

# Covid 19 Policy Addendum

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Whilst the expectations in this policy remain relevant it is necessary, in light of the Covid-19 pandemic, to make some adjustments to our worship arrangements for the safety of all pupils and staff. These are set out below:

- Acts of worship will take place virtually online via Zoom or in class groups to enable the pupils and staff to socially distance.
- The incumbent will be encouraged to lead collective worship virtually online via Zoom.
- Special services for celebrations such as Christmas, Easter, Harvest etc will take place virtually online.
- The children will continue to be encouraged to take part in worship by providing prayers and by commenting with relevant comments to worship opportunities online.
- Virtual online worship will start with a reflective moment by lighting a candle.
- We will continue to follow the Department for Education guidance regarding singing.