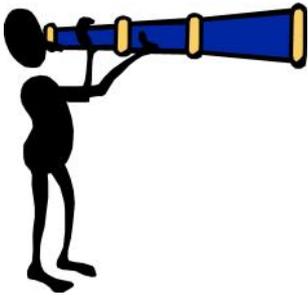




All Saints C of E Primary School

# Acts of Worship

*Policy and Guidelines*



Our fragmented society needs a whole series of reflective pools, places where the very deepest issues of life and death may be explored and understood away from the market place.

*Terry Waite*





All Saints C of E Primary School

***Through Christian teaching, we aim to develop an inclusive learning community, where through strong relationships the achievements of all are celebrated.***

## **Acts of Worship Policy**

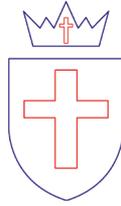
### **Aims:**

**Through our corporate Acts of Worship at All Saints C of E Primary School we will:**

- Contribute to the spiritual and moral development of our children.
- Introduce our children to various aspects of the Anglican Church Liturgy and Worship.
- Help our children to gain knowledge and understanding of the Christian faith.
- Explore, share and celebrate the faiths and beliefs of others.
- Celebrate and acknowledge the life of our school community.
- Look out to the wider world beyond our school community.
- Relate what is being thought about and studied in our Acts of Worship as much as possible to the lives of everyone in our school community.

### **Values will be transmitted:**

- Through the management, stated mission and aims of our school which are reflected in our ethos. Our school is a safe and caring place where children can share, think about and experience ethical enquiry and develop the habits that are needed for good moral conduct. All relationships in our school offer a model of these values in action.
- Through the example provided by all school staff and the moral language they use, which will help our children internalise ideas of what is acceptable and what is not acceptable in the living, working community of our school.
- When a love of and respect for our values is embedded so that children learn to resist the temptation to bully or to be greedy for example, they can come to later appreciate the wider consequences of exploitation and greed.
- Through our corporate Acts of Worship, which present a valuable opportunity for the school community to come together in order to fully explore and understand Christian values.



## All Saints C of E Primary School

***Through Christian teaching, we aim to develop an inclusive learning community, where through strong relationships the achievements of all are celebrated.***

# **Acts of Worship Guidelines**

### **Structure of Acts of Worship**

As a school, we took the decision to adopt a scheme called “Values for Life” (VFL) in 2009, following a presentation at the annual Diocesan Conference. The use of the scheme has proved to be very successful in school, with positive feedback being regularly received from all members of the school community.

The scheme sets out 18 different values, which are studied on a half termly basis through Acts of Worship, Services of Praise in school and Eucharists in Church, over a rolling three-year period. Plans are provided for Acts of Worship for all of the themes, followed by ideas and suggestions for taking the theme further, with members of staff often incorporating their own ideas as to how develop the theme further.

Outlined below is a typical weekly plan for how we organise our Acts of Worship in school, with the Acts of Worship always being related to the VFL theme that is being studied in that particular half term.

**Monday:** A whole school Act of Worship led by a member of the SLT in the school hall.

**Tuesday:** An EYFS/KS1 Act of Worship led by Mr Sharp in the hall with the focus on singing (KS2 engage in individual class Acts of Worship lead by the class teacher)

**Wednesday:** A KS2 Act of Worship led by Mr Keogh in the hall with the focus on singing (EYFS/KS1 engage in individual class Acts of Worship lead by the class teacher)

**Thursday:** A whole school Act of Worship led by a member of the SLT in the school hall (on a rota basis)

**Friday:** A whole school Act of Worship led by a member of the SLT in the school hall with the focus being on celebrating the achievements of the children during the week.

Three times a year (alternate half terms) we come together as a whole school community with Father Andrew for a 'Service of Praise' in school, and for the other 3 half terms we attend Church (EYFS/KS1 attend one week for a non Eucharist Service, and KS2 attend the next week for a full Eucharist Service). These 6 Acts of Worship are all based around the Values for Life theme that is being studied for the half term.

**"Values for Life" rolling programme for themed Acts of Worship**

| <b><u>Theme</u></b> | <b><u>Term</u></b> | <b><u>Years</u></b> |
|---------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| Courage             | Autumn 1           | 2014/2015           |
| Creativity          | Autumn 2           | 2014/2015           |
| Peace               | Spring 1           | 2014/2015           |
| Trust               | Spring 2           | 2014/2015           |
| Forgiveness         | Summer 1           | 2014/2015           |
| Justice             | Summer 2           | 2014/2015           |
| Thankfulness        | Autumn 1           | 2015/2016           |
| Compassion          | Autumn 2           | 2015/2016           |
| Friendship          | Spring 1           | 2015/2016           |
| Hope                | Spring 2           | 2015/2016           |
| Truthfulness        | Summer 1           | 2015/2016           |
| Humility            | Summer 2           | 2015/2016           |
| Generosity          | Autumn 1           | 2016/2017           |
| Respect & Reverence | Autumn 2           | 2016/2017           |
| Wisdom              | Spring 1           | 2016/2017           |
| Perseverance        | Spring 2           | 2016/2017           |
| Service             | Summer 1           | 2016/2017           |
| Responsibility      | Summer 2           | 2016/2017           |

**Spencer Keogh**  
**Acts of Worship Leader**  
**November 2015**

## **Appendix 1**

### **Structure for Corporate Acts of Worship**

The Corporate (collective) Act of Worship is very important in focussing the children (and the whole school community) on the aspect of the chosen value for that week. The 'Values For Life' (VFL) material provides detailed plans for each week's keynote Act of Worship as well as ideas for developing the theme further in class worship and across the rest of the curriculum.

There follows a list of the essential elements that would go into making an effective Corporate Act of Worship. They include:

#### **A visual focus:**

At All Saints we have a worship table that acts as a visual focus for our worship. The main display reflects the theme for the half term and is updated by the RE/Worship Leader on a half termly basis. A candle on the table (electronic) can be lit at the start of worship to signify to the children that this is a special time. There is also a cross permanently on the table. It is important to remember though that the use of other objects or artefacts relating to the theme of the worship will help to engage the visual learning and reinforce the teaching of the Act of Worship.

#### **Music:**

Music should be playing as the children enter the hall and gather for worship. The music should be something calming and soothing and (if at all possible) should be a piece of music that fits in with the theme being studied, specific pieces are suggested in the VFL guidelines, but teachers are free to choose their own if they wish. This music can also be played as the children leave the hall, providing a calming start and end to the worship.

#### **Songs:**

Suggestions for songs that can be used are also provided in the VFL guidelines, but our children are taught different hymns and songs each half term (taken from the 'Worship Workshop' website)

that fit in with the theme. See the RE/Worship leader for details of which songs are being learned.

**Introduction and development of the theme:**

Here, the information provided in the guidelines may be employed as the aspect of the value in focus is delivered to the children. The theme can be introduced and developed using (but not exclusively) the following:

- Bible stories (Read out by adult/children)
- Episodes/incidents from the lives of famous people
- PPT/Keynote presentations
- Interaction/involvement with the children
- Small (previously prepared) drama activities
- Short video clips
- Q&A sessions with the children
- Opportunities for the children to briefly discuss possible responses to questions raised (Talk Partners)
- Interpreting the lyrics of relevant hymns or songs (that tell stories for example)
- Photographs/concept cartoons.

**Reflection:**

It is an essential part of any Act of Worship that children are given a time of stillness/calm/peace to think about the content of the worship and to reflect upon its meaning for themselves, how it impacts upon their lives and how they can put any lessons learned or messages received into practice in their own lives:

- In their school community
- At home, with their friends and families
- In the wider community outside school.

**Prayer:**

The guidelines include a variety of prayers that can be used for each aspect of a particular theme, but whoever is delivering the Act of Worship is welcome to devise their own, find alternative prayers from other sources or ask children to write their own prayers beforehand that can be used to reinforce the message of the worship.



All Saints C of E Primary School

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