



# **THE SAINTS FEDERATION**

## **Collective Worship Policy**

**Document Control**

<b>Organisation</b>	<b>The Saints' Federation</b> All Saints' C/W Primary School St David's CiW Primary School St. Mellons CiW Primary School
<b>Title</b>	<b>Collective Worship Policy</b>
<b>Author</b>	Schools
<b>Owner</b>	Executive Headteacher and Governing Body
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Feb 2020		N/A	Policy created
Feb 2024	2.0		Policy adopted by The Saints Federation GB
May 2026	3.0		Name changes and addition of St. Mellons Policy Adopted by the Governing Body

Signed by Chair of Governors on behalf of the Governing Body

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Signed by the Executive Headteacher:

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Date approved: ..... (by full Governing Body)

Date of review: .....

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) is at the heart of our school's planning, policies, practice and ethos. As a rights respecting school we not only teach about children's rights but also model rights and respect in all relationships. This policy is linked to:

*Article 3: Everyone who works with children should always do what's best for each child*

## **Our Vision**

Guided by our Christian values, we strive to promote a nurturing learning environment that values difference and enables all pupils to become happy and independent lifelong learners. Collective worship is at the heart of school life and reflects our Christian vision, values and commitment to nurturing every learner so that they flourish. Worship is regarded as the unique heartbeat of the school, fostering belonging, offering space to encounter faith, and supporting the wellbeing and spiritual development of all.

All Saints, St. David's and St. Mellons CiW Primary Schools are committed to offering high-quality collective worship.

Worship is:

- Planned and reflected upon
- Inclusive, invitational and inspiring
- Reflective
- Open and accessible to all

## **Our Ethos**

Learning together through fun, friendship and faith, Together with God Everyone Achieves More.

## **Aims of Collective Worship**

- To create a respectful community promoting compassion towards others.
  - To nurture lasting friendships based on truth and trust.
  - To encourage responsibility and foster positive attitudes.
  - To strive for excellence in teaching and learning within all aspects of school life.
  - To develop creative and independent thinkers who are happy and successful in an ever-changing world.
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- Contribute to the spiritual development and wellbeing of all
  - Develop understanding of the traditions and practices of the Church in Wales
  - Provide space for reflection, celebration and hope
  - Encourage participation, contribution and response
  - Provide opportunities to encounter Christian teaching, Bible stories and liturgy
  - Support learners in asking questions, deepening their thinking and making meaning
  - Strengthen a sense of cynefin, belonging and community identity
  - Promote our Christian values and shared ethos
  - Inspire learners and adults towards positive action and thoughtful behaviour

## **Our understanding of Collective Worship**

We understand that Collective Worship should be a special act or occasion whose purpose is to show reverence to God. Collective Worship involves all members of the school coming together and participating in this special activity. Collective Worship at The Saints' Federation is a shared act of gathering, reflecting and responding, offered in a way that meets learners wherever they may be on their faith journey. Within this context, worship provides opportunities for learners and adults to explore big questions of purpose, meaning and belief. Worship is invitational: learners and adults are never compelled to do anything, and may always choose to pray, reflect or simply be present with integrity.

### **Organisation of Collective Worship.**

We hold a daily act of Worship in our schools. It is led by staff, clergy, visitors and by our Worship leaders from various year groups. The nature of the worship varies from whole school, to separate age phases and individual class Worship.

We conduct Worship in a dignified respectful way. Children see Worship time as a period of calm reflection. We regard it as a special time and expect children to behave in an appropriate manner. Children are required to be quiet and thoughtful at the appropriate times and to listen carefully to the teachings and participate fully in prayer, hymns and choruses. On other occasions, the children will be actively involved in the planning and delivery of acts of Worship, either for their peer groups or for the wider groups across key stages or the school. Children are also encouraged to reflect on their contribution to Worship and evaluate its impact on themselves and others.

We create an appropriate atmosphere using a variety of live and recorded music, candles and various artefacts with religious and spiritual significance. Other artefacts are used frequently to illustrate or provide a focal point for Worship.

We take the themes of our Worship from the traditions of the Christian faith and our values. We reflect the festivals and events of the Christian calendar. Sometimes the themes of Worship reflect and build on topics that we teach as part of the school curriculum and enhance the attitudes, values and themes in advance of the day they take place. Our worship reflects and celebrates the talents, achievements and learning of the children.

Our weekly celebration Worship offers an opportunity to acknowledge and reward children for their achievements both in and out of school and to give thanks to God. This plays an important part in promoting the ethos of our school, which is that all children are valued, and all achievements are recognised; also, that St David's Church in Wales Primary school is a successful school. Collective Worship offers an ideal opportunity for these successes to be celebrated.

## **Content of Collective Worship.**

Over the course of a term, collective worship should be:

- The teachings of Jesus and other Bible stories
- Moral stories from other sources of world religions
- Reflecting upon Christian symbols and their use in worship
- Observing the cycle of the Anglican year including liturgical colours
- Songs appropriate to the theme or season
- Children's drama and presentations
- Eucharist
- Reflection

A variety of people will lead acts of worship, including the Executive Headteacher, Heads of schools, class teachers, the staff, the incumbent and visitors.

A Typical week will be:

- Monday:** Picture News (World Events)  
**Tuesday:** Rights Respecting Schools/ Other Faiths  
**Wednesday:** Whole School Worship based on Values through Bible stories  
**Thursday:** In Class Worship  
**Friday:** Celebration Assembly (VIP)

## **Whole School Worship Format**

Whole school worship incorporates prayer and structures that children will recognise in a more formal church setting. There are also opportunities for elements of the worship to include Welsh.:

- Gathering and Welcome
- Use Welsh or English to greet people, whilst allowing the children to respond in Welsh and welcome visitors similarly
- School prayer in English or Welsh
- Candle lighting to signify the beginning of worship with the words 'we light this candle to remember that Jesus is the light of the world'
- Bible reading/story
- Hymns/chorus with the main theme of worship
- Reflection
- Prayers
- The Lord's prayer

## **Right of Withdrawal**

Collective worship is a positive and enhancing experience in our school and we believe every child should have the chance to flourish in an environment where faith is valued and celebrated. However, any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from attending religious worship and the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during the period concerned. Parents do not have to explain or give reasons for this. This complies with the statutory right of withdrawal as set out in legislation. The Heads of Schools keep a record of all children who are withdrawn from collective worship.

## **Monitoring and Review**

It is the role of a named school leader with responsibility for RVE and collective worship to monitor the policy and practice of collective worship along with the Heads of Schools and Executive Headteacher and staff member responsible for collective worship.

All staff will be responsible for implementing this policy with support from the RVE leader, Heads of Schools and Executive Headteacher.