

Loving to Learn, Growing Together, Caring for All

'Let your roots grow down to him and let your lives be built on him. Then your faith will grow strong in the truth you were taught; and you will overflow with thankfulness.' Colossians 2:7

Levens CE School is a happy, safe and inspiring place to grow and learn, where we enjoy the learning experiences each new day brings. Everyone is supported and nurtured through our distinctively Christian ethos and shared Christian values.

Definition

Worship is a time when the whole school, or groups within the school, meet together in order to learn and reflect on many different aspects of our world and our lives including: our Christian values, British Values, stories from the Bible, the life of Jesus, current issues and interests including themes around the environment, sustainability and annual events including Anti-Bullying Week, World Environment Day and Safer Internet Day. It offers all pupils an opportunity to worship through engagement in relevant, meaningful experiences and provides opportunities for the pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

As a maintained school in England, we provide a daily act of worship. It is distinct from our RE curriculum and our content is broadly in accordance with the beliefs and practices of the Anglican Church. They may take place in various groupings such as the whole school, key stage groups and classes. They can take place at any point in the school day, but most occur each morning.

Context

This policy should be read in conjunction with the following:

- School Behaviour Policy
- Overarching Safeguarding Statement
- RE Policy
- SCARF Policy

Principals of Worship Time

Worship contributes to the Christian ethos of our school and the Christian education we provide.

In recognising its historic foundation, the school will preserve and develop its religious character in accordance with the principles of Christian beliefs and practices. It encourages an understanding of the meaning and significance of faith and promotes our Christian Values through the experience it offers to all our pupils.

koinonia	peace	endurance	respect	love
forgiveness	truth	compassion	service	thankfulness

Worship are at the heart of our school life; are valued by all; and are an essential part of our spiritual development. As such we ensure each assembly is carefully planned, resourced and delivered by different members of our school community including children, staff, members of our parish including our local church leaders and visitors. Opportunities for prayer, meditation exercises and reflection may also occur at other times of the school day. Celebration Assemblies (distinct from worship) provide opportunities to recognise and share learning in the curriculum, the personal achievements of pupils and staff, as well as other

community celebrations such as the success of sports teams, the arrival of new families at our school, the birth of a baby.

We use a variety of approaches in order to be able to introduce our pupils to the key beliefs and aspects of the Christian faith and have opportunities to explore these together.

These include opportunities to:

- explore the nature of God as father, Son and Holy Spirit;
- understand the idea that all human beings are children of God;
- share and explore further our Christian Values
- understand the significance of the Bible as a central text providing knowledge about God and Jesus; and as a source of inspiration and guidance for our own lives;
- The relevance of prayer;
- The cycle of the Church year;

Worship provides opportunities to:

- regularly experience opportunities for stillness, reflection and prayer;
- consider spiritual and moral issues;
- explore our own beliefs and spirituality;
- reinforce positive attitudes;
- participate and respond;
- reflect on what it means to be human;
- explore the responses that have been made to big questions by people of faith.

Links with local churches

We regularly visit the local parish church for acts of Worship and our local vicar and/or other Anglican clergy and church leaders lead worship regularly in our School.

Other types of assembly

We also gather at other times as a school for different purposes e.g. making importance announcements. These are distinct and parents' rights to rights to withdraw their children from these assemblies do not apply.

Experience Events

In order to deepen our pupils' knowledge, understanding and experience of prayer, reflection and learning, we offer experiences in each academic year at our local parish church. These have been on the themes of Easter, Lent, Harvest, Christmas, Eucharist etc. Different stations focus on a various elements of the theme and is facilitated adults from the Church community. Each class has an opportunity to visit each station in groups following a plan which is adapted to suit the age and understanding of the pupils.

Responsibility for this policy

Responsibility for this policy is undertaken by the Governing Board and is regularly reviewed. The policy is developed as part of the work of the Christian Vision Group which is made up of school staff, foundation governors and our parish vicar.

The Worship and Religious Education lead is responsible for the coordination of the policy and will work with school leaders, local clergy and staff for its implementation.

Organisation and Delivery

Day	Time/Group	Focus	Led by	location
Monday	9am whole school	Christian Values National Events Church Calendar God's Big Story using the Big Frieze from Understanding Christianity	HT	school hall
Tuesday	9am whole school	Stories from the Bible	Open the Book St. John's Church team	
Wednesday	9am infant 2.50pm junior	Exploration of themes over sequence of assemblies: Zero Heroes, Fairtrade, British Values, links with partner school in Uganda; Christian Values	School Staff	
Thursday	9am whole school	Christian values Church Calendar National Events God's Big Story using the Big Frieze from Understanding Christianity	St. John's Vicar Reverend Bryan	
Friday	9am whole school	Celebration Assemblies	Staff and pupils	

Our gatherings, whether worship or assemblies, will usually last between 15-20minutes minutes.

At the end of each week, our Celebration Assemblies provide opportunities for us to celebrate the curriculum with pupils displaying, sharing, performing details of what they have learnt or experienced in or out of school. We reflect on our Christian values in daily lives and thank God for our school, our families and our friendships etc.

Parents and family members are warmly welcomed to attend our special gathering on regular occasions, particularly at our Celebration Assemblies on Fridays.

During worship, a calm and reflective atmosphere is created and sustained through:

- the setting of our worship table as a focal point with liturgical cloths, a cross, the Bible and a candle;
- the use of music when entering and leaving our worship time;
- the expectation that children and adults will move in and out of this space in reflective silence;
- the expectation of respecting and valuing this time together;
- the lighting of the candle, reciting our words 'Loving to Learn, growing together, caring for all' and singing of our 'Welcome Blessing' at the start of our assembly time.

Content and Approach

Our themes for worship time are based on:

- Christian Values - one chosen each term;
- Links with our partner school in Uganda;
- Local, national and global topics of significance including British Values, Environmental issues, Fairtrade etc;

- 'Root and Fruits' scheme to support exploration of values in collective worship;
- presentations of Bible stories in 'Open The Book';
- opportunities for pupil participation – lighting the candle, writing and leading in prayer, leading assemblies through role play, Bible readings, playing music etc;
- making links to our school curriculum, national events and initiatives e.g. Anti-Bullying Week; Show Racism the Red Card, which in turn ignite our pupils to be courageous advocates of change;
- providing opportunities to revisit different themes progressively and developmentally.

Worship leaders are required to respect the life choices of pupils and other participants particularly being sensitive to those of the Christian faith, or of other faiths or with no faith. We do this by being aware of the power of language and expression.

Worship begins with our Welcome Blessing and has a stimulus: for example a story/poem, a picture, a video, a piece of music or an object that contributes to the learning. It includes a period of reflection, which may take the form of an invitation or a question to reflect in a moment of silence or with talking partners; and opportunities to experience, lead and take part in different types of prayer, e.g. The Lord's Prayer. Singing is a part of our worship and enables pupils to be involved in this joyful method of praise. Pupils prepare and lead acts of worship, with support from staff, throughout the year. They are invited to take part in daily worship through greetings, prayers, activities, volunteering and evaluation. Pupils who do not wish to pray, are encouraged to be still and respectful during this moment of quiet and reflect on the key learning or messages.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Everyone is given the opportunity to evaluate and reflect on the learning and experiences enjoyed in Collective Worship through contributions to our Reflection Books, kept in each classroom. Pupils, staff and governors are involved in evaluating the impact of Worship and these evaluations are used to inform future planning and provide a basis for the development of our provision.

Opportunities are provided for staff to develop and improve their approach to planning, resourcing and leading assemblies through staff training and CPD from external professionals including the Diocese of Carlisle and by networking with other Church of England schools both within and outside our local cluster.

Parental Rights to Withdrawal

Parents have the legal right to withdraw their children from worship, but not assembly gatherings. Should any parent make such a request, appropriate arrangements will be made for the supervision of the children following consultation. Parents who have any concerns about the provision and practice of collective worship are encouraged to contact the head teacher to discuss this. In recent years, all parents have fully supported our policy on worship and assemblies; as a result no pupils withdraw currently.

This Policy was agreed by the governing body of Levens CE School on Thursday 7th December.

Signed (Chair of Governors) S Bishop

This Policy is due for review in autumn term 2025.