



Collective Worship

St Faith was a young girl who lived in the region of Aquitaine in the third century during the reign of Emperor Diocletian. Her legend recounts how she was arrested during persecution of Christians by the Roman Empire and refused to make pagan sacrifices even under torture. Her patronal feast day is 6th October.

She stood up as an **advocate** of her beliefs and took **courageous** steps to help all those around her who were in need. Like St Faith, we encourage all our children to be strong in their faith and be courageous, trusting God to help us to do what is right even though all around it may be difficult – As St Faith demonstrated to us all that we should **BELIEVE and ACHIEVE**.

The Purpose of Collective Worship

- Develop the children's understanding of the Gospel Values
- Contribute to a sense of unity and belonging to the school family when worshipping together in large and small groups.
- To provide an opportunity for all to contribute and express their response to god, no matter what their personal commitment
- To celebrate and value individual, group and whole school achievements
- To promote spiritual, moral, social and cultural development

Aims

- To give the school's identity and self-understanding a grounding in Christian worship and prayer
- To provide opportunities for children to experience worship of God in the context of a broadly Christian character
- By the corporate activity of worship to enable children to develop an individual spiritual awareness with acceptance of self and others based on the premise of God's acceptance of us
- To enable the children to understand some of the features of worship in a Christian community, e.g. praise, reflection, celebration, thanks, saying sorry and sharing
- That the children be familiar with stories, customs and activities associated with the Christian calendar
- To provide an opportunity for calm reflection
- To enable children to gain insight into ways in which people express themselves within their faith commitments and to be sensitive to those different ways of responding

Collective Worship

We understand worship to be a special act or occasion whose purpose is to show reverence to God. Collective worship involves members of our school community coming together in a variety of ways, for example: as a class, a key stage or a whole school. We encourage everyone, children, staff, parents and governors to reflect and participate. We have planned our collective worship themes based on the teachings of Jesus as well as Christian values and the traditional of the Anglican Church. This structure ensures the children are given the opportunity to explore a wide range of issues in depth.

Worship Themes

This year (2018-19) the Gospel values we are exploring are:

Autumn A	Autumn B	Spring A	Spring B	Summer A	Summer B
Harvest Festival St Faith's Day Black History GENEROSITY	Remembrance Advent TRUST	 PERSEVERENCE	Easter JUSTICE	 TRUTHFUL	Graduation SERVICE
Mutual Respect	Democracy	Tolerance of Difference	Rule of Law	Individual Liberty	Mutual respect

Organisation of Worship

We hold a daily act of collective worship in our school. This may include music, song, stories, and shared experiences, readings from sacred writing, prayer and reflection.

We conduct Worship times in a dignified and respectful way. It is a period of calm reflection. We regard it as a special time and expect children to behave in an appropriate way. We ask children to be quiet and thoughtful and to listen carefully to the teachings and participate fully in prayer and hymns. We create an appropriate atmosphere by using prayer, music, candles or other objects to act as a focal point for the attention of the children. The pupils are encouraged to express their ideas and points of view.

Our Friday Family Worship time reflects the achievements and learning of the children. We encourage the children to participate by sharing their learning to the school community. This is an opportunity to acknowledge and reward children for their achievements both in and out of school. We invite parents and carers to our Family Worship as this promotes the community spirit of the school.

A daily prayer is said in all classrooms led by teachers at the end of the day

The following weekly pattern has been adopted for the delivery of collective worship:

Day	Led by	Audience	Place	Time
Monday	Head teacher or senior leader	KS 1&2 + F2	Hall	10:45 – 11:00
Tuesday	Senior Leaders Fr Gordon, Faith group	Class	Hall	10:45 – 11:00
Wednesday	Singing for worship	KS 1&2 + F2	Hall	10:30 - 11:00
Thursday	Class teacher	KS 1&2 +F2	classroom	10:45 – 11:00
Friday	Senior Leader / class teacher	Whole School Community	Hall	9:00 – 9:30

Special Occasions

We have identified particular days as special occasions where special acts of worship are organised: Harvest, St Faith's Patronal Feast, Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, and Pentecost and National days of celebration: Remembrance Day. The whole school community celebrates both Christmas and Easter at St Anne's with St Faith's Church.

Reflection Area

We have established quiet Reflection Prayer Areas around the school and these are varied and interactive areas where prayer and reflection activities are on offer to all pupils which they find helpful and supportive. These areas are a focal point for quiet reflection and are set up with resources and artefacts to support quiet personal worship. Children are invited to use the area at lunch-time and play times. These displays and resources are changed in these areas to reflect the Church's Liturgical year.

Worship Displays

Each class and an area in the hall reflect the Worship theme for the half term. Each class display includes the following: a candle, crucifix, class prayer book, class reflection book, key theme words and questions for children to reflect upon. The atrium has a prayer focus where children, parents, staff and visitors are able to write a prayer or thoughts.

The Children's Faith Group

We have a group of children who meet together to discuss and share ways to contribute to the involvement and diversity of the school in worship. One example of this was to put together a focus day for the Jewish festival of Purim.

Resources

'Values for Life' produced by Gloucester Diocese, is a collective worship resource based on Christian values. St Faith's has used this resource for the past ten years basing collective worship on a different value for each half term. We have recently supplemented our worship cycle with 'Roots and Shoots', establishing Christian values from the Bible in creative collective worship themes reflecting the liturgical year.

Withdrawal

Parents may ask for their child to be totally or partially withdrawn from collective worship in accordance with the Education Act. They are advised of this right in the school brochure and are asked to contact the head teacher to make arrangements.

Monitoring and Review

We monitor the effectiveness of collective worship. Monitoring occurs through questionnaires and informally through staff discussion with valued feedback from parents and visitors. It is the role of the Children, Families and Community Committee to monitor the policy and practice of collective worship. Governors are welcomed to all acts of collective worship during the week and invited for particular special occasions.

We are a Church school and as a result we place a very strong emphasis upon Christianity, however we are aware that we live in a diverse society and hope that the delivery of our worship illustrates the positive value we place on developing a greater awareness of other faiths and their festivals with a firmly rooted and widely celebrated Christian school.

Reviewed September 2018