ST LEONARDS' C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL

Worship Policy

St Leonard's CE Primary School empowers children to be courageous learners in a nurturing, safe and inclusive environment. Inspired by God's love we strive to demonstrate St. Paul's teaching on the fruit of the Spirit and help our children to make the world a better place.

"love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control"

Galatians 5. 22-23

Ratified by the Governing Body: June 2026

Review date: June 2029

Purpose

Worship finds its focus at times in the St Leonard's school day and throughout the school and church's liturgical year. It also permeates all aspects of St Leonard's life: the way we value each other as members of God's family, and the way we value our world as created by God. Therefore, although each individual member of St Leonard's is encouraged and supported in finding their own personal way of worshipping, we seek in our worship to explore and express the values we share. Worship will involve both communication and community:

- communication... listening and speaking to each other and to God through Christ and in the Spirit and learning from this experience.
- community... deepening our relationship with each other and with Jesus Christ and being heartened by this bond.

At St Leonard's our worship is essentially Trinitarian: that is to say, we pray

- ***to*** God the Father as the source of our life shaping our life's aim
- ***through*** God the Son as our companion on life's journey
- ***in*** the Holy Spirit empowering us and drawing us together

St Leonard's serves its local community, we value and celebrate the rich cultural and religious diversity of all members of St Leonard's. Whilst worship will always reflect the Christian ethos of our school, we respect and acknowledge the variety of religious observances which are represented in our community. We welcome the ways that this can enrich our experience of worship. We seek to foster values and morals rooted in Christian teaching, which are also shared by the major world faiths and belief systems.

Collective Worship at St Leonard's CE Primary School is provided in accordance with the requirements of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 and reflects the school's foundation as a Church of England school.

Aims for Worship

- to offer the possibility of an encounter with God's grace in Jesus Christ
- to give the children time to reflect on their own beliefs and initiate their own worship, promoting a spiritual dimension to their lives
- to strengthen our shared spiritual life
- to foster a clearer understanding of our calling as Christians and what our commitment should be to care for others
- to encourage a religious imagination
- to gain a familiarity with aspects of the Anglican liturgy
- to experience a variety of ways in which worship can take place
- to celebrate God's world
- to celebrate God's word

Collective Worship Timetable

Collective Worship may be taken by any member of staff and visiting local clergy. Assemblies are, at times, led entirely by children.

Worship will take place in the school halls, in individual classes or in a Church.

A prayer is said before lunch and at the end of the day in each class, led by the class teacher or the children as appropriate.

Normal Weekly Timetable

MONDAY	Headteacher or Deputy Headteacher
TUESDAY	Worship led by a visiting member of the parish community or a senior member of staff.
WEDNESDAY	Hymn Singing Practice
THURSDAY	Worship led by the 'Open the Book' Group or Online by a member of the education team from the Herefordshire diocese.
FRIDAY	Celebration Assembly or Worship led by a class

GUIDELINES

Content

- The theme of worship reflects our Fruit of the Spirit Vision. Each 'fruit' is focused on for a half term in a 2 year cycle.
- Each fruit/ value is linked explicitly to the character we expect pupils to develop and the type of person we want to come. This is a deliberate, thoughtful response to ensure that our vision is 'lived' in our community.
- The major events in the Church's Year, i.e. Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter, Pentecost, Harvest, All Saints' Day and other Saints' Days as appropriate.
- Other events in the calendar such as Holocaust Memorial Day, Mothering Sunday, and support for charities
- acknowledge world faith celebrations as appropriate.

All acts of worship should be relevant to the children in the age group concerned, sensitive to their needs and expressed in language to which they can relate.

Care should be taken during the year to explore a range of scripture and other devotional literature and to give opportunities to hear it well read, using drama as appropriate.

Those leading acts of worship should be constantly ready to incorporate a focus on contemporary events both those that engage children and those dominating news headlines.

Worship should have a tangible impact on the lives of our whole school community including families, staff, and children as we seek to realise our vision of a community that reaches out to spread love. At St Leonard's we understand God's word to be one of love and a call to action to make our world a better place.

How this works is illustrated below:

What does the Bible tell us about the Fruit of the Spirit?

Love	Joy	Patience	Kindness	Goodness	Gentleness	Self-Control	Peace	Faithfulness
The Good Samaritan Luke 10:25 - 37	The Shepherds and the Birth of Jesus Luke 2: 8 - 20	The Parable of the Growing Seed Mark 4: 26 - 29	Ruth Cares for Naomi Ruth	Joseph resists temptation and forgives his brothers Genesis 37 - 50	Elijah hears God in a gentle whisper 1 Kings 19: 11-13	Jesus Tempted in the Wildness Matthew 4: 1-11	Jesus calms the storm Mark 4: 35 - 41	Daniel in the lion's den Daniel 6

Who are we becoming?

Caring about others' feelings, helping without being asked, standing up for someone who is struggling	Finding delight in learning, celebrating others' success, keeping going when things are hard	Waiting without frustration, giving others time to improve, sticking with challenging tasks	Using polite language, small acts of care, noticing when someone needs support	Doing the right thing when no one is watching, telling the truth, making ethical choices	Handling others carefully (physically and emotionally), giving feedback kindly	Managing impulses, staying on task, making wise choices under pressure	Staying composed in conflict, resolving disagreements fairly, not escalating situations	Keeping promises, turning up prepared, being dependable in roles and relationships

What should our character be like?

Compassion, empathy, generosity, selflessness	Compassion, empathy, generosity, selflessness	Perseverance, tolerance, endurance, understanding	Thoughtfulness, courtesy, consideration	Integrity, honesty, moral courage, fairness	Humility, sensitivity, respect	Discipline, focus, responsibility, emotional maturity	Calmness, patience, emotional regulation	Reliability, loyalty, commitment, trustworthiness

How is this recognised? Termly Awards as part of our family of schools

Being consistently courteous	Achievement/ talent in the arts	Fairness, championing equality, inclusivity, celebrating diversity	Kindness, compassion, understanding, mindful of others, helpful, supportive	Contribution to the local community	Environmental Champion	Perseverance, resilience, strength of character	Academic Achievement	Sporting endeavours
Kindness Gentleness Goodness Self- Control Peace	Self- Control Patience Joy	Love Goodness Joy Peace	Kindness Faithfulness	Love Peace	Love Joy Self- Control Kindness Gentleness	Self-Control Patience	Self- Control Faithfulness Patience Joy	Self- Control Faithfulness Patience joy

Prayer
Prayer is an integral part of life at St Leonard's and should be used in class and assembly. Children are encouraged to write their own prayers.

Prayer should reflect a balance of:

- Praise
- Celebration
- Penitence (saying sorry for the things done wrong by us and others) and Forgiveness
- Asking for things – for others and ourselves
- Listening to God
- Meditating on the mystery of God and the wonder of creation
- Dedication and Commitment
- Asking God to work through us

We believe that prayer should come from the heart, but we also know that it must be taught by example.

The children are taught the 'Lord's Prayer' and the Collect for Purity and Prayer of St Richard of Chichester ("Day by day").

Singing
Hymns and songs may be chosen according to the theme of the occasion. The children will learn a blend of traditional and modern hymns and songs.

Music
A variety of music is played to create an atmosphere of reflection. This may be linked to the theme of the week. Children are encouraged to play live music in assembly.

Focus
We use a variety of artefacts and visual images to provide a focus for worship e.g. flowers, candles, a cross, PowerPoint images, Bibles. We have a reflection table in our school hall. The colours of the reflection table reflect those of the liturgical calendar.

Visual Aids
Visual aids are encouraged as a means of creating and retaining interest.

Conduct
Children should arrive and leave quietly. Music will be played at a level to encourage preparation for worship and purposefulness afterwards.

Worship should be conducted with an air of devotion, anticipation, excitement, and purpose.

Participation
Children should be encouraged to take part in initiating worship and actively participating in it, both through prepared work and question and answers.

Everyone can be actively involved in several ways: reading, drama, music and singing, response to questions and audience participation.

St Leonard's has a Worship Council which monitors participation, actively engages with leading worship and makes suggestions for improvement.

Spirituality

We can ensure that we contribute directly to children's spiritual development if we offer them the opportunity to:

- Sense or be aware of the mystery of life, of awe and wonder.
- Develop the skills of reflection, silence, and the exploration of inner space.
- Enquire with an open mind.
- Be aware of one's own uniqueness, of the worth of oneself, and of one's
- identity.
- Empathise with others.
- Be aware of the dark side of life, of suffering, pain, decay, and loss.
- Appreciate a sense of community, its demands, values, rituals and
- celebrations.
- Communicate through speech, art, music, drama etc. responses and feelings
- with increasing confidence and self-esteem
- Explore symbols, images and metaphors and their use in helping
- understanding.

Agreed approaches to a reflective way of teaching:

- Building explicit opportunities for spirituality across the curriculum, starting from children's own experience.
- Value each child's contribution.
- Provide opportunities for children to find things out for themselves.
- Encourage a questioning approach.
- Ensure there is always time for discussion/reflection.
- Encourage and recognise expression of feelings especially through the arts.
- Provide occasions when children can develop their imaginative skills.
- Develop children's awareness of and ability to use their senses, and to
- concentrate on the present moment.

Visitors
Although worship remains Christian, throughout the year, representatives from other faiths or denominations are invited to take part in, and contribute to, collective worship e.g. visitors from our neighbours such as the imam from the mosque in Craven Arms.

All visitors contributing to worship will be appropriately supervised and expected to act in accordance with the school's safeguarding procedures and values.

Wider School Community
Governors and Parents and friends of the school are encouraged to join in the school worship on occasions, such as the class assemblies and church celebrations.

Community Links
From time-to-time groups of children will extend their joy in service to the wider community. We hold regular collections for the Foodbank.

Withdrawal
Whist St Leonard's is a Church of England School we are committed to respecting individual beliefs. Upon entrance to the school, parents/carers are made aware of the Christian basis of our teaching. However, there are three church schools in Bridgnorth and only one non church school which is quite some distance away. It is likely that children from families of all faiths and those of no faith will choose to send their children to St Leonard's - we ensure everyone is welcome and serve our whole community with pride and joy.

Parents/carers have the legal right to withdraw their child from collective worship, either wholly or partly, in accordance with the Education Act 1996. The school will discuss requests sensitively with families.

Evaluation and Monitoring
- The Foundation Governors monitor Worship through joining staff and pupils for Worship and a named link Governor is responsible for monitoring the Worship Action Plan, as part of the School Improvement Plan, and reporting back to Governors
- Children complete an annual questionnaire on their views about worship
- Informal feedback between staff
- Staff and Governors formally review the policy annually.
- Feedback from the children via the School Council