Collective Worship Policy 2026/2027

Our Vision – Rooted in Love

At St Luke's, we are Rooted in Love.

Our Christian vision is rooted in Ephesians 3:17: *"And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love…"* We believe that every child and adult is created, known and valued by God. Our vision provides strong roots of faith, knowledge, identity, belonging and love, enabling everyone in our school community to grow in confidence, flourish and reach out to make a positive difference in the world.

Collective worship is a central part of how we live out this vision. It provides opportunities for our whole school community to come together, explore our Christian faith and values, reflect on our lives and relationships, pray, celebrate, be challenged and consider how we can put our faith into action.

Through worship, we seek to help children develop strong roots and confident wings: roots that give them security, belonging and a sense of who they are, and wings that encourage them to grow, serve others and make a difference.

The Purpose of Collective Worship

Collective worship at St Luke's provides opportunities for pupils and adults to:

- gather together as a school community;
- explore and develop their understanding of the Christian faith;
- encounter stories and teachings from the Bible;
- reflect on our Christian values and school vision;
- develop spiritually through prayer, reflection, music, stillness and discussion;
- consider questions about meaning, purpose, relationships and choices;
- celebrate achievements and the gifts of individuals within our community;
- develop a sense of belonging and community;
- listen to and respect the perspectives of others;
- consider how Christian faith can influence the way we live;
- respond through prayer, reflection or practical action;
- develop confidence in leading and contributing to worship.

Worship aims to move beyond simply knowing about Christian values towards considering how those values influence the way we live.

Worship and Spiritual Development

We recognise that collective worship provides important opportunities for spiritual development. Through worship, children are given time and space to wonder, reflect,

pray, question, be still, consider meaning and purpose, and respond to experiences and ideas.

Worship may encourage pupils to reflect on:

- themselves and their identity;
- their relationships with others;
- the wider world and their responsibilities within it;
- questions of faith, meaning and purpose;
- experiences of joy, challenge, hope, forgiveness and compassion;
- how they can make a positive difference.

Spiritual development is therefore woven naturally through worship rather than being treated as a separate activity.

Leading Collective Worship

At St Luke's, we believe that collective worship should be a shared experience, with opportunities for both adults and pupils to lead. Worship is led by a range of people across our school community, including:

School Leaders: Headteachers and members of the Senior Leadership Team lead whole-school worship throughout the year. They model Christian leadership and help to ensure that worship remains closely connected to our Rooted in Love vision and Christian values.

School leaders may lead worship linked to:

- our current Christian value;
- biblical stories and Christian teaching;
- significant points in the Church year;
- school priorities;
- current events and global issues;
- celebration and reflection;
- justice, compassion, service and courageous advocacy.

Pupil Groups: We actively develop pupil leadership in worship. Groups such as our Ethos Group and Shades Group have opportunities to plan, prepare and lead worship. Pupils may introduce worship, read Bible passages, lead prayers, share reflections, present drama or music, ask questions and provide opportunities for other children to respond. Pupils are encouraged not simply to perform a prepared script, but increasingly to contribute their own ideas, reflections and questions. This supports our belief that children should have an active voice in the spiritual life of our school.

Class Teachers – Class Worship: Class teachers lead regular class worships, providing smaller and more personal opportunities for children to explore faith and Christian values.

Class worship may include:

- Bible stories;

- prayers;
- songs or hymns;
- reflection and stillness;
- discussion;
- values-based activities;
- children's questions;
- celebration and thanksgiving;
- opportunities to respond through art, writing or practical action.

Class worship provides a safe space for children to share ideas and reflections and enables teachers to respond to the needs and experiences of their particular class.

Pupil participation is a key feature of worship at St Luke's.

Children are given opportunities to:

- lead prayers;
- read Bible passages;
- introduce worship;
- lead songs;
- share reflections;
- contribute questions;
- act in dramas or presentations;
- lead activities;
- support prayer spaces;
- evaluate worship;
- plan and lead whole-school worship through pupil groups.

We want pupils to increasingly see themselves as active participants in the spiritual life of the school, rather than simply recipients of worship. Our pupil-led worship connects closely with our vision of being Rooted in Love: children are given strong roots through belonging and faith, while developing the confidence and skills to use their voices and make a difference.

Inclusion

Worship at St Luke's is inclusive and seeks to ensure that every child feels known, valued, respected and able to participate. We recognise the diversity of our school community and ensure that worship is accessible to pupils of different ages, abilities, backgrounds and experiences. Children are invited to participate in prayer and reflection in ways that are appropriate for them. Worship may include opportunities to pray, reflect, listen or respond.Our approach reflects our Christian belie f in the dignity and value of every individual and connects strongly with our vision of being Rooted in Love.

Prayer

Prayer is an important part of the worship life of St Luke's. Children are introduced to different forms of Christian prayer, including:

- prayers of thanksgiving;
- prayers of confession and forgiveness;

- prayers for others;
- prayers for the world;
- prayers for our school community;
- prayers for guidance;
- spontaneous prayer;
- silence and reflection.

Children are encouraged to understand prayer as a way of communicating with God, reflecting and responding, rather than simply something that happens at the end of an assembly. Our school prayer is used regularly and provides a shared expression of our identity and vision.

Worship and Courageous Advocacy

Worship encourages pupils to recognise that Christian faith involves action as well as reflection. Children are given opportunities to consider local, national and global issues and ask:

What is happening?
Why does it matter?
How might our Christian values help us respond?
What can we do?

This links worship with our work around service, charity, justice, peace, diversity, environmental responsibility and courageous advocacy. Pupil groups such as the Ethos Group, Shades and Earthkeepers provide opportunities for children to turn ideas explored through worship into meaningful action.

Planning and Evaluation

Worship is planned across the school year to ensure a coherent progression of themes, biblical understanding and Christian values.Planning takes account of:

- the Rooted in Love vision;
- the six Christian values;
- the Bible and Christian teaching;
- the Church year;
- spiritual development;
- pupil voice and interests;
- significant events;
- opportunities for service and courageous advocacy;
- the needs of the school community.

Worship is regularly evaluated to consider not simply whether it took place, but what difference it made.

Evaluation may include:

- pupil voice;
- pupil reflection;
- teacher feedback;

- BREW – *Book of Reflection and Evaluation of Worship*;
- observations;
- discussions with pupil leaders;
- feedback from worship leaders;
- monitoring by school leaders.

The key question is: What did children think, feel, understand or do differently as a result of this worship?

RIPPLE

At St Luke's, we engage with RIPPLE, a Manchester Diocese initiative that supports schools in developing a rich and meaningful approach to collective worship. RIPPLE encourages worship to create opportunities for reflection, prayer, participation and spiritual growth, helping children to connect Christian teaching and our school values with their own lives and the wider world. Through RIPPLE, we seek to ensure that worship is engaging, inclusive and purposeful, providing children with opportunities not only to listen, but to wonder, reflect, respond and take action. This complements our Rooted in Love vision by helping pupils develop strong roots in faith, belonging and identity, while giving them the confidence to live out our Christian values in their everyday lives.

Stage	Focus	What this means at St Luke's
R – Recognise	Recognising the value	What does this value mean? What does it look like? Where do we see it in the Bible and in the world around us?
I – I (Me)	Looking at ourselves	What does this value mean for me? How do I show it in my own thoughts, words and actions?
P – People	Considering others	Who else is affected by this value? How might other people experience it? Who might need us to show this value?
P – Partner	Working with others	How can we work together to live out this value? Who can we partner with to make a difference?
L – Lead	Taking leadership	How can we take responsibility and lead by example? How can we encourage others to live out this value?
E – Equip	Being equipped for action	What do we need to help us live this value beyond worship? What action can we take? What difference could we make

Our Six Christian Values

At St Luke's, our six Christian values help us to live out our vision of being **Rooted in Love**. Each value is grounded in Scripture and gives us a practical way to show God's love through our thoughts, words and actions.

- **Compassion – Ephesians 4:32**
  "Be kind and compassionate to one another…"
  Compassion means noticing when someone needs help, understanding how others may feel and responding with kindness, care and forgiveness.

- **Service – Galatians 5:13**
  "…through love serve one another."
  Service reminds us that we can use our gifts, time and abilities to help others. We seek opportunities to serve our school, church, community and wider world.
- **Perseverance – Hebrews 12:1**
  "…let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us."
  Perseverance encourages us to keep going when things are difficult, to learn from challenges and to have courage when we do not succeed straight away.
- **Respect – Luke 6:31**
  "Do to others as you would have them do to you."
  Respect means recognising the value and dignity of every person. We listen to others, celebrate difference and treat people as we would want to be treated.
- **Truthfulness – Ephesians 4:15**
  "…speaking the truth in love…"
  Truthfulness means being honest, trustworthy and willing to speak truthfully while remembering to do so with kindness and love.
- **Generosity – Acts 20:35**
  "…It is more blessed to give than to receive."
  Generosity encourages us to share what we have, give our time and talents and look for ways to make a positive difference to others.

Together, these values help our children to grow strong roots in faith, love, identity and belonging, while giving them the confidence and compassion to reach out and make a difference in the world.

Right of Withdrawal

Collective worship in a Church of England school is provided in accordance with the school's legal responsibilities and its Christian foundation. Parents have the right to withdraw their child from collective worship. Any request for withdrawal will be discussed sensitively with parents and carers, and appropriate arrangements will be made.

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