

Stonegate C E Primary School



Collective Worship Policy

Adopted - September 2018

Reviewed - September 2019, September 2020, July 2021, 2022 and 2023

Next Review – July 2024

This policy is an agreed statement of the values and aims of collective worship at Stonegate Church of England Primary School which is linked to St Peter's Church in Stonegate. Stonegate Church of England Primary School is a Voluntary Controlled School.

The school's vision states the importance of educating children in a way that is grounded in Christian beliefs and values.

Stonegate Church of England Primary School is a community founded on Christian Values, which embraces every child and their family. We provide a safe environment, where a lifetime love of learning begins, the whole child is nurtured and each child is valued and able to thrive.

We develop a Love of Learning for Life.

At our school we believe that everyone is an individual. We encourage them to reach their full potential in a happy, safe and caring environment. Within our community, we provide a foundation for enthusiastic lifelong learning, based on Christian values.

The act of Collective Worship plays a significant part in developing the spiritual and moral growth of our school and is seen as part of the whole curriculum.

Worship in our school should include the following:

Worship:

- Should at its simplest create a time and space where we can come closer to God and know that God is with us
- Be distinctively Christian
- Use and promote the clearly identified core Christian values of the school (Respect, Trust, Friendship and Courage)
- Be based on Biblical text or themes
- Enable participants to develop an understanding of Jesus Christ and a Christian understanding of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit

- Be central in importance to the life of our school community, which is part of a wider community that embraces the whole world
- Reflect on human existence
- Use the seasons and festivals of the Christian year
- Develop understanding of Anglican traditions and the practice of the local parish church

People:

- Develop personal spirituality within the school community through a range of experiences including individual and collective prayer
- Engage pupils and adults with collective worship, making it relevant and transformational to the lives of members of the whole school community
- Celebrate the God given gifts and talents of individuals and the whole school community
- Make a significant contribution to the overall spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of members of the school community
- Consider the beliefs and values of others, especially those within the school community
- Raise aspirations of individuals and the school community

Comply:

- Be clearly outlined in the school prospectus and documentation
- Involve learners and adults in planning, leading and evaluating collective worship
- Be monitored and evaluated for the impact it has on the school community by foundation governors

How we achieve our aims

We aim to promote collective acts of worship, which are rich, meaningful experiences that are appropriate and significant to the pupil's needs, age, development and interest by:

- Creating a sense of occasion and reverence following the 4 central attributes of worship.
- Planning and linking themes which focus on a particular idea/concept, i.e. the liturgical year, festivals and celebrations, within Christian and

other faith traditions, our Christian values – celebrating achievements, good work and behaviour/citizenship

- Using a wide range of resources, devotional aids, artefacts (from religious and secular sources), music, art, drama and external speakers where possible to engage children's interest.
- Encourage children to participate and experience different styles of worship, e.g. prayer, praise, silence, rituals, and become familiar with the language of worship, Biblical readings and liturgy.
- Providing opportunities for pupils to reflect, contemplate on their own thoughts, feelings and beliefs.
- Using the centrality of prayer – personal silent prayer, personal shared prayers, collective prayers, writing prayers.
- Providing opportunities that develop pupil's awareness of what is beautiful, good, wonderful, awesome and puzzling in life experience.
- Involving pupils and members of the wider community to participate in collective worship and activities within the parish.
- Presenting and creating displays that promote and enhance spiritual ideas, thoughts and questions.

Central attributes of an act of worship

The School will endeavour to fulfil the legal requirements of 1988 Education Reform Act in conjunction with School's trust deed, by holding 'an act of collective worship every day'. During collective worship, whether in the hall, classroom or outside, we will apply a number of elements for worship.

THE ELEMENTS OF WORSHIP

School worship will be based on the following structure:

1. Gathering -Creating an atmosphere of reverence

- Music for pupils' entry and exit
- Interactive Whiteboard focal point images to provoke thought, reflection and spirituality
- Candles

- Signal the start of worship with a liturgical response such as: -The Lord be with you -And also with you
- The theme or value should be stated
- The whole school join in with a worship song

2. Engagement - A wide range of high-level strategies and best available techniques should be used to support the Christian value to be covered.

This could include:

- A bible story read, acted out, retold, hot seated, watched on film / listened to
- Thinking about a particular theme through story
- Using a prop or modern-day event to lead into thinking about a biblical / spiritual theme
- Allowing individuals to participate either spontaneously or in a planned way – this could be a member of the community.
- Pupil led Collective Worship

3. Prayer and quiet reflection

All acts of Collective Worship in school should include an opportunity for prayer and quiet reflection which will include:

- Opportunities for children to write their own prayers- reflection area, prayer tree
- Prayer by individuals in a time of quiet
- Prayer led by the worship leader which may include The Lord's Prayer, the School's Prayer or the Prayer of St Richard
- All prayers will start with hands together and eyes closed or head bowed to reflect, and will end with Amen

The children will say a class prayer in their classroom at the end of the day before going home.

4. Sending out

- The signal for the end of worship will be the blowing out of the candle and saying: -The Lord bless you - And you too.

School specific organisation

Monday - Whole school worship led by Headteacher (or member of the Church)

Tuesday - Class worship led by a member of teaching staff with the children (will focus on a Core Value or a RSHE theme)

Wednesday - Whole school worship led by a member of teaching staff or the Headteacher

Thursday - Music worship led by Music Subject Leader

Friday - Whole school celebration of work led by Headteacher or member of Teaching Staff. Parents / visitors are invited to this assembly on a regularly basis.

The Centrality of Prayer

During the collective worship there will be a time for response and reflection, to ponder on a question, statement or thought. This may also be reflected in a prayer, offered spontaneously by a pupil or adult, read out or recited. This prayer can be displayed and used in class and school reflective areas so that:

- Children understand the nature and purpose of prayer.
- Children understand the part prayer may play in their lives and the life of the school community.
- Prayer contributes to the spiritual development of individuals and the whole school community.

There will also be appropriate opportunities for prayer and other worship activities, including reflection, outside of collective worship. Each class has a 'reflective area' to engage and promote individual pupils and adults, as well as designated special spaces around the school.

Management of Collective Worship

The Headteacher plans worship based on Christian values and the Bible through the sequence of values in Values for Life. All classes have access

to prayer books and Bibles, as well as the Christian resource books on display for class reflection time in the hall.

A display board in the hall highlights the focus and theme of Collective Acts of Worship and is changed regularly. The School's reception area displays the school's distinctive ethos and Christian values. The cross is, at times, decorated e.g. poppies for remembrance, spring, harvest etc.

Communication

The weekly school newsletter contains the worship theme and, at times, prayer and Bible reading so parents are informed about the worship taking place in school. Some parents will value this personally and may discuss and reflect on the worship at home with their child.

Parental Involvement

Parents are actively encouraged to participate in collective acts of worship, church services and celebration worships.

Responsibilities

At interview all applicants are informed that the school holds daily acts of collective worship that promote the Christian ethos and values of the school. The normal expectation will be that teaching staff, including student teachers, will participate in and sometimes lead collective worship.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Governors monitor Collective Worship and report to the whole governing body. Pupils are also involved in evaluating collective worship through feedback in weekly class worship, questionnaires and pupil conferences. All leaders of collective worship are asked to evaluate continuously and reflect after every Collective Worship, to develop and improve their practice.

Legal Status of Collective Worship

All maintained schools in England must provide a daily act of collective worship.

In a Church of England School, worship must be in line with the trust deed of the school and will reflect the traditions of the Church of England, i.e. the Anglican tradition.

Right to Withdraw

Parents have the right to withdraw their child from the daily act of collective worship. Schools must comply with this wish and must ensure a duty of care for pupils who are withdrawn from collective worship.

Collective worship guidance is contained in Circular 1/94.

The school will respect parental requests and will try to discuss the request to see if an accommodation can be reached and to ensure worship remains inclusive and invitational and open to all members of the school community.

Review

This policy should be reviewed annually or earlier if changes are made to the SIAMS Evaluation Schedule.