

Stratford-sub-Castle Church of England VC Primary School

Learning for life in a positive and caring Christian community

Collective Worship Policy #1

The *Collective Worship Policy* was reviewed during the Autumn Term 2013. It should be read in conjunction with the *Aims of the School*, *P.S.H.E. Policy* and the *Religious Education Policy*. This policy will be reviewed in 2017.

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is:

- ❖ to fulfil the aims of the school through a consistent approach to collective worship
- ❖ to fulfil our statutory obligations

Our School Aims.

As a Church of England School we aim....

- to ensure that each child knows they are valued and supported, so that they can reach their full potential; spiritual, emotional, social, physical and intellectual, in an ethos of Christian love, tolerance and understanding
- to serve the whole community and warmly welcome children and their families whatever their faith, culture or means
- to provide a happy, safe and stimulating environment so that each pupil has the opportunity to achieve and acquire skills and knowledge required for life now and in the future
- to promote a positive and purposeful environment where effort, progress and attainment are encouraged, rewarded and celebrated.
- to achieve our aims we foster the following Christian values:

**LOVE -- HOPE -- COURAGE -- PEACE -- TRUTHFULNESS -- FORGIVENESS and RECONCILIATION --
GENEROSITY and THANKFULNESS -- COMPASSION and COMMUNITY -- EQUALITY and
INCLUSIVENESS.**

Policy Aims

As a Church of England School we aim to

- ❖ develop links with the Church and the wider community
- ❖ promote the moral and spiritual development of pupils
- ❖ provide pupils with regular opportunities for review and reflection
- ❖ nurture an awareness and understanding of our own and other cultures, religions and beliefs.

Statement of Principles

We believe in:

- ❖ giving time for reflection and contemplation
- ❖ providing opportunity for both shared and individual responses to the act of worship
- ❖ appreciating that people are different and have different beliefs
- ❖ actively listening to and researching the views of others
- ❖ being empathetic to the views of others

- ❖ fostering a sense of self worth
- ❖ encouraging commitment.

Implementation

The Headteacher has overall responsibility for the implementation, management and monitoring of the *Collective Worship Policy*.

School Assembly

It is our policy to continue to call use the word “assembly” as this is understood by parents. Collective worship is part of “assembly”.

An assembly rota is placed in the Staff Room. Parents are invited to attend on a regular basis.

Each collective worship has clear, simple aims. We also

- ❖ create a cohesive whole, songs, prayers and stories are linked where possible.
- ❖ develop spiritual awareness through moments of contemplation, and through looking and thinking about the subject.
- ❖ create a warm, welcoming atmosphere.
- ❖ provide music for the children to listen to as they come in, and/or pictures, writing or artifacts as they sit down help develop the right atmosphere.
- ❖ the use of religious signs and symbols is encouraged.
- ❖ candles and the cross are used at appropriate moments.

Themes

Themes are chosen by the Headteacher with reference to the school’s Christian values.

Care is taken to acknowledge important religious festivals both Christian and those of other religions e.g.: Ramadan, Diwali.

Suggested Themes:

**LOVE -- HOPE -- COURAGE -- PEACE -- TRUTHFULNESS -- FORGIVENESS and
RECONCILIATION --
GENEROSITY and THANKFULNESS -- COMPASSION and COMMUNITY -- EQUALITY
and INCLUSIVENESS.**



Worship in the Church

The whole school worships in the Church together with governors, parents and invited guests on the following occasions. Each class makes a contribution to the services.

<u>Month</u>	<u>Service</u>	<u>Bible Readings</u>	<u>Prayers</u>
October	Harvest Festival	All Year groups	All Year groups
December	Carol Service	All Year groups	All Year groups
March / April	Easter Service	Year 6	Year 6
July	Leaver’s Service	Year 6	Year 5

Prayers

The Lord’s Prayer (“who art” version) is used regularly and pupils are taught to recite it. Where appropriate children and teachers develop their own prayers.

Children are expected to close their eyes and place their hands together. Pupils of other faiths (whose parents have not exercised the rights of withdrawal*) are asked to bow their heads and remain silent during prayers.

The “School Prayer” is said at the beginning and end of every week.

Music and Hymns

As the children enter and leave assembly music is played. This music is chosen to broaden the children's cultural and spiritual awareness and understanding. A hymn is sung daily, the words displayed on the white board.

The school hymn is "One More Step Along the World I Go" and is always sung at Leavers' Services.

Rights of Withdrawal

Pupils (by parental consent or request) have the right of withdrawal according to the 1994 Education Act. At Stratford-sub-Castle School we hope that all the school will take part in collective worship. We also respect the rights of parents to withdraw their children. Parents wishing to do so are advised to discuss the matter with the Headteacher in the first instance.

This policy was approved by the Governing Body on