

Collective Worship Policy

The *Collective Worship Policy* was reviewed during the Spring term 2026.
This document is the result of that review.

DATE AGREED BY FULL GOVERNING BODY:	26.01.26
REVIEW DATE:	January 2029
REVIEW CYCLE:	Three Years
AUTHOR:	Mrs Justine Watkins and Miss Hannah Crook
HEADTEACHER:	Mrs Justine Watkins
CHAIR OF GOVERNORS:	Mr Andy Mintram
TO BE READ IN CONJUNCTION WITH:	<p><i>School Documents:</i> <i>Aims of the School</i> <i>Bereavement Policy</i> <i>British Values Statement</i> <i>SMSC Policy</i> <i>Visitors Policy</i></p> <p><i>National Documents:</i> <i>DfE Guidance: Collective worship in schools (1994)</i> <i>Understanding Christianity</i></p>

Stratford-sub-Castle Church of England VC Primary School

Collective Worship Policy

'Life in all its fullness' (John 10:10)

As a Church of England school, we acknowledge that each child is created in the image of God and is therefore unique and precious. The Christian faith provides the basis from which we learn how to treat each other and be a community.

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is:

- to fulfil the mission and aims of the school through a consistent approach to COLLECTIVE WORSHIP
- to promote the school's values through a consistent approach to COLLECTIVE WORSHIP
- to fulfil our statutory duties

Our Mission, Values and Aims

Life in all its fullness

Our school ethos is founded on the Christian values of PEACE, LOVE and JOY. These values underpin everything we do. Our ethos is one where people are valued for their 'uniqueness'. This means, that as individuals and as a community, we are able to flourish and live '*life in all its fullness*'.

Our curriculum has been designed to fuel ASPIRATION and ACHIEVEMENT and to foster the CELEBRATION of success in all its forms!

Our school aims are to:

- ensure that each person knows they are valued and supported, so that they can achieve their full potential; spiritual, emotional, social, physical and intellectual, in an ethos of Christian peace, love and joy
- broaden horizons and promote aspiration
- serve the whole community and warmly welcome children and their families whatever their faith, culture or means
- fuel and sustain every person's love of learning
- 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 in a meaningful way
- create an active, positive and purposeful learning environment where effort, progress and attainment are encouraged, recognised and celebrated.

Legal Requirements

The law (1988 Education Act) requires the Headteacher and Governing Body of every school to provide a daily act of Collective Worship which is in line with the school's Trust Deed and foundation. The Trust Deed states that the land was given in order to provide '*religious instruction and worship according to the principles and practices of the Church of England.*' Stratford-sub-Castle CE Primary School meets this

requirement and this requirement is explained to all involved in the planning and delivery of acts of worship.

Policy Aims

As a Church of England School we intend COLLECTIVE WORSHIP to:

- contribute significantly to the spiritual, moral and cultural development of pupils
- support the Religious Education of pupils
- provide pupils with regular opportunities for reflection and response
- be engaging, inspiring and transformational
- provide a graduated structure for pupils to become leaders of COLLECTIVE WORSHIP
- strengthen and nourish our school community, ensuring all have a sense of belonging and that we are 'all God's Children'
- develop links with the Church and the wider community.

Statement of Principles

At our school we consider COLLECTIVE WORSHIP to be a significant educational activity that both reflects and explores the schools distinctive Christian character and contributes to the academic achievement, personal development and well-being of all learners.

Implementation and Desired outcomes

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP at Stratford-sub-Castle Church of England VC Primary School is designed to:

- **BE INSPIRATIONAL AND INCLUSIVE.** As a result, it should engage all pupils and they should be able to talk about the impact it makes on their relationships and on life in our school
- **REGULARLY INCLUDE BIBLICAL MATERIAL AND CHRISTIAN TEACHING.** As a result, pupils should be able to relate Bible stories to the school's core Christian values
- **HAVE A STRONG FOCUS ON GOD AS FATHER, SON AND HOLY SPIRIT.** Resulting in all pupils beginning to explore and develop an understanding of the Trinity
- **HELP ALL LEARNERS UNDERSTAND ANGLICAN AND OTHER CHRISTIAN TRADITIONS FOUND IN THE UK AND WORLDWIDE.** As a result, all pupils are challenged to develop an understanding and embark on their own spiritual journey. Pupils should understand the value of prayer, reflection and stillness
- **PROVIDE ALL LEARNERS WITH "SOMETHING MORE THAN THE OBVIOUS, SOMETHING TO WONDER AT, SOMETHING TO RESPOND TO"** Contributing to each pupil's spiritual journey and demonstrating to each and all, the value of everyone's personal response.
- **CELEBRATE AND GIVE THANKS FOR ACHIEVEMENTS WITHIN THE SCHOOL, LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY.** Leading to a strengthened and nourished school community, ensuring all have a sense of belonging and that we are 'all God's Children'
- **MARK OCCASIONS OF SIGNIFICANCE, INCLUDING FESTIVALS.** As a result, pupils should understand our school's links with the church and the wider community.

The Headteacher has overall responsibility for the implementation of the *Collective Worship Policy*. The Foundation Governors have overall responsibility for monitoring and evaluating the impact of the *Collective Worship Policy*. They report to the Full Governing Body.

School Assembly and Collective Worship

It is our policy to continue to use the word '*assembly*' as this is understood by parents. COLLECTIVE WORSHIP is part of '*assembly*'. COLLECTIVE WORSHIP should be an experience that does not offend the integrity of the non-religious or those of different faith.

Specific time is set aside for assembly and we recognise the importance of marking out the act of COLLECTIVE WORSHIP from other activities. Each COLLECTIVE WORSHIP has clear, simple aims. We mark out this special time by:

- creating a cohesive whole, songs, prayers and stories are linked where possible
- developing spiritual awareness through moments of contemplation, and through looking and thinking about the subject
- providing music for the children to listen to as they come in, and/or pictures, writing or artefacts as they sit down help develop a thoughtful and peaceful atmosphere
- using candles, the cross and Christian symbols to provide a focus.

The views of pupils concerning COLLECTIVE WORSHIP are sought through the Schools Council. Foundation Governors also seek the views of pupils as part of their monitoring and evaluation role.

Pattern and Themes of Collective Worship

As a rule worship follows the pattern of **Welcome, Learning (windows), Reflecting (mirrors) and Responding (doors)**. This is used as a framework for planning.

The school uses 'Roots and Fruits', a collective worship resource specifically designed for Primary schools to support 'whole school' worship. Twelve Christian values are explored in a two year programme. The theme for each term is shared on newsletters, the school website and on display in the hall and classrooms.

(ROOTS and FRUITS <https://www.imaginor.co.uk/roots-fruits/>)

Each person leading worship plans with the same degree of thoroughness as any other aspect of their teaching. A worship-planning group meets once a term led by the Collective Worship Leader. These meetings are an opportunity to review and evaluate the last terms Acts of Collective Worship and to plan themes for the next term. This usually takes place as part of a staff meeting but may also be a separate meeting.

The timetable for COLLECTIVE WORSHIP may change each term. This allows for the different demands of the school year. Each term COLLECTIVE WORSHIP follows a theme as outlined in Roots and Fruits. These are rooted in Bible teaching and represent the fruit that grows as the teaching is lived out in everyday life. It also includes recognition of the church's year and makes space for national events and local, national or international news stories.

- **Monday:** YR – Y6 led by Headteacher/ Deputy Headteacher
- **Tuesday:** YR – Y6 led by member of staff. One class (on a rotation) has collective worship led by the vicar in their classroom
- **Wednesday:** Separate EYFS & KS1 / KS2 collective led by member of staff
- **Thursday:** Age appropriate in each classroom led by teacher or pupils.
- **Friday:** YR – Y6 Smiley Face Celebrations led by Headteacher/ Deputy Headteacher.

Pupils have regular opportunities to lead collective worship through 'Class Assemblies' and 'Classroom Assemblies'.

Parents, grandparents and pre-school children (families) are welcomed to 'Smiley Face Celebrations' every Friday.

Worship in the Church

The KS2 school community worships together in our Church (St. Lawrence) on the following occasions. Pupils volunteer to read from the Bible or to lead prayers.

Other services attended by various members of the school community include the New Beginnings Service the Anzac Day Service and Community Sunday.

MONTH	SERVICE	DETAIL
September (First morning of the academic year)	New Beginnings A service for new parents and existing parents/ families at the beginning of the academic year.	Parents / carers are invited to a short service led by the vicar. This provides parents /carers with an opportunity to pause and reflect on the step being taken by their child and to give thanks for their child and the gift of parenthood. Governors, school leaders and members of the St Lawrence congregation also attend this service in order to welcome new parents/carers into our community
April	Anzac Day A service for all members of the Stratford-sub-Castle, St Lawrence Church and wider community. The people buried in the churchyard from Australia and New Zealand are remembered and their sacrifice commemorated.	Y5 and Y6 pupils are invited to attend the service each year. Pupils may choose to attend, or not, on an individual basis. During the service pupils stand by the Commonwealth war graves and place a bouquet of rosemary on the grave of each service person as their name is read out.

Prayers

The Lord's Prayer (modern version) is used regularly and pupils are taught to recite it. Where appropriate children and teachers develop their own prayers.

Children are asked to close their eyes and place their hands together. Pupils of other faiths or of none (whose parents have not exercised the rights of withdrawal*) are asked to show respect 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 by a projector on the screen.

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

Visitors

Visitors should understand the educational aims of Collective Worship at the school and the need to avoid any proselytizing. Attempts to persuade pupils to adopt a particular religious or non religious belief are not appropriate. In general, the Headteacher is consulted before a visiting speaker is confirmed. Visitors should not speak about raising money for any particular cause(s) without the prior permission of the Headteacher.

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.