

Stutton CEVCP School

Collective Worship Policy

Approved	21st February 2017
Signed	Jo Hazlewood (Chair of Governors)
Minuted	21 st February 2017
Date of Next Review	Summer 2018

1. Introduction

At Stutton C E V C Primary School, Collective Worship plays an important role. It provides an opportunity to celebrate all aspects of our school life, to support our curriculum and to provide opportunities for reflection, caring, sharing and stillness in the busy school day. All teachers take at least one assembly a week, thus showing the importance we place on this time and each sharing the experience with the children.

The Governors recognise the legal requirement for a daily act of Collective Worship in accordance with the Voluntary Controlled status of the school and the terms of its Trust Deed, which states that worship should be "in accordance with the rules and ceremonies of the Church of England"

As a voluntary controlled Church of England primary school, we hope that children will participate in Collective Worship. However, we recognise the legal right of parents to withdraw their children and of teachers to withdraw from acts of worship. Parents who have concerns about our Collective Worship are encouraged to discuss the matter with the Headteacher. At Stutton School, Collective Worship is inspected by the Diocesan and Religious Foundation under Section 23.

2. Aims and Objectives

Collective Worship gives our children the opportunity to develop morally and spiritually by the experiences of actively participating in the worship of God, reflecting on

Christian values, beliefs and spirituality, reinforcing the community spirit and ethos of the school and celebrating successes.

3. The Central aims of our Collective Worship are:

- To celebrate the values and worth of our school community, including the gifts and talents of our children
- To promote children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development through a Christian and multi-faith approach
- To provide our children with daily opportunities for stillness and reflection and to enable children to move from what is of immediate but pressing concern to the broader and more lasting concerns of life
- To develop children's respect for and sensitivity to the beliefs and values of others
- To develop children's understanding of the nature and value of worship
- To promote awe, wonder, love, compassion and our individual worth.
- To support the broader curriculum through the use of art, music, dance, story, drama and other visual and oral means of communication
- To offer children a spiritual dimension to their lives and personal relationships
- To provide time and opportunity for thanksgiving and to enjoy the unity which derives from sharing friendship, acceptance, joys, hopes and fears, etc.
- To provide time to share with others the things we have been doing, our thoughts and ideas
- To help children develop shared values - honesty, respect, tolerance, self-discipline, forgiveness and fairness
- To give children experience of being active members of a caring community
- To respond in a compassionate and civilised way to experiences of injustice, cruelty, exploitation, greed, etc.

Visitors play an important part in the life of our school and we welcome everyone as a member of our worshipping community, including leaders & members of the local church community to lead assemblies regularly, for example monthly Open The Book Assemblies.

4. Organisation

The headteacher will ensure that:

- a daily act of *Collective Worship* is provided
- the governing body is consulted about the planning of *Collective Worship*
- alternative provision is made for pupils whose parents request that they do not attend the *Collective Worship*.
- all staff can participate and make an active contribution.

5. Arrangements for Collective Worship

Our pattern for *Collective Worship* is shown below:

Monday	-	10.05 a.m.	Whole School Collective Worship
Tuesday	-	10.05 a.m.	Whole School Collective Worship
Wednesday	-	10.05 a.m.	Whole School Collective Worship
Thursday	-	10.05 a.m.	Whole School Collective Worship
Friday	-	2.40 p.m.	Family Assembly/Collective Worship for parents, carers and the local community

Acts of worship are also held at Harvest, Christmas and Easter at St. Peter's Church, Stutton.

A programme for Acts of worship is recorded in our assembly file. The school follows a weekly pattern of themes in all assemblies except for Friday when we have a celebration of work with our parents. The pattern of themes not only reflects the major festivals of the Church year, but also looks at festivals in other religions, famous people who have contributed greatly to our world, other peoples' feelings and part to play in our world. All staff, including visiting speakers are made aware of the theme. The headteacher has overall responsibility for planning worship themes.

We are developing a range of resources to enhance children's experience and learning. These include stories, music, poems, pictures, posters, banks of assembly ideas, all of which we hope contribute to a stimulating and thoughtful time for our children. The children will be given an opportunity to respond to these experiences through silent reflection, spoken prayer and/or by singing songs.

The use of prayer may be that of prayers the children have written, traditional prayers or short prayers led by the teacher/visitor. In addition to silent reflection, we have identified 5 characteristics of worshipful response:

- saying thank you
- saying sorry
- thinking of others
- remembering
- celebrating.

6. Monitoring & Review

This policy is reviewed annually. However, responses to/comments about our collective worship policy are welcomed by the Headteacher at any time throughout the school year.