

Sutton Veny C of E Primary School Collective Worship Policy

What is Collective Worship?

Collective Worship strengthens and supports the Christian identity of our school, and reaffirms the values our school holds deeply. Our worship reflects the variety of traditions found in the Church of England. A daily Christian act of worship is central to our ethos and is supported by staff, parents and governors. It makes an important contribution to the overall spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of the whole school community.

Our Vision for Collective Worship:

We want to encourage the children, families and school community to: Come to know and worship God, if that is their choice; exploring key events, the Bible and stories from Christianity and reflecting on their own beliefs. We want them to feel included; considering their special place in a local and global Christian community. We want them to be able to be still where needed and reflect spiritually through prayer and silence. We want them to share in joyful praise, song and stories relating to our school values and experiences that influence and impact their lives and the lives of others. Most of all we want them to experience worship as something that is positive, affirming and inspiring, causing them to think.....and take action!

Implementation and Organisation

Through our organisation of Collective Worship we:

- conduct daily worship in a sensitive, inclusive and respectful way
- show the children that worship time can be a period of calm reflection or 'buzzing' engagement
- regard worship as a special time and expect children to behave in an appropriate way; to be thoughtful and to listen carefully
- encourage the children to contribute their ideas and thoughts (including Young Worship Leaders)
- create an atmosphere by using music, lighting a candle or using objects that act as a focal point for the attention of the children. The cross is our main focus, lit by a candle to show that Jesus is the light of the world, and encircled by the class stones, representing Jesus as the foundation of Christianity.

Collective worship is planned by staff, pupils, and the incumbent of our local church, whose input and collaboration we value greatly. We may also use external visitors where appropriate, to enrich the experiences the children have. Our school plans systematically and cohesively, using resources such as '*Values for life*' and '*Roots and Fruits*', which are adapted and changed to meet the needs of our school. We are mindful of the variation in personal spiritual styles and provide a range of creative opportunities including music, silence, symbolism, drama and technology. A detailed long term overview, and shared planning format, ensures that there is a common understanding of the requirements of worship and enables continuity.

Our values for each term in Year A

Term 1: Courage
Term 2: Creativity
Term 3: Peace
Term 4: Trust
Term 5: Forgiveness
Term 6: Justice

Our values for each term in Year B

Term 1: Thankfulness
Term 2: Compassion
Term 3: Friendship
Term 4: Hope
Term 5: Truthfulness
Term 6: Humility

Weekly Overview of our Collective Worship

- **Mondays:** Singing Worship led by Mrs Dale
- **Tuesdays:** 'Values' Collective Worship led by Teaching Staff
- **Wednesdays:** 'Meet the World' Collective Worship led by Mr Lewis
- **Thursdays:** Bible themed Collective Worship led by Katherine Venning or the Open the Book Team
- **Fridays:** Celebration Assembly led by Mr Lewis. Parents and friends are warmly invited, and encouraged, to attend this celebration of birthdays, certificates and special people. This promotes the community spirit of the school and is a practical demonstration of the way home and school work together to celebrate the achievements of our children.

Expectations of pupils

At the end of each term, the Tuesday Collective Worship takes place in each classroom as an age-appropriate conclusion to each value. Pupils are encouraged to reflect on the value, sharing thoughts on what they have learnt, how the workshops have affected them and what they would now do differently. They will also have the opportunity to input their ideas for the next value, expressing what they would like to see and how they can be a part of that.

Key Stage 2 children can volunteer as Young Worship Leaders, working with the collective worship leader during after school club to develop their own understanding of worship and to design acts of worship that support the spiritual development of their peers.

Children also lead key services throughout the year such as Christmas, Easter and ANZAC day.

Assessment, Monitoring, Evaluating and Inspection

Our school regularly evaluates our acts of collective worship and the impact it has on the school and its wider community. This involves monitoring by school leaders, staff, pupils and governors in order to grow and develop. We also welcome the contributions of parents and pupils through our questionnaires, which are reviewed and considered on a regular basis. Worship is also independently inspected as part of SIAMS. The Collective Worship leader has responsibility for overseeing the planning and provision of collective worship. He/she will keep in touch with national developments and will act in an advisory capacity to support colleagues. The school allocates part of its budget to support the daily act of Collective Worship. The Collective Worship leader attends regular professional development with the Salisbury Diocese and accesses a wide range of resources to ensure that worship is inclusive, invitational and inspiring. Staff meetings are used for training, discussion and the updating of information.

Responsibilities

The governing body is responsible for:

- ensuring that the Church Foundation of the school is honoured
- developing a policy which promotes an ethos based on Christian principles and practice
- ensuring that Collective Worship is put into practice and monitored
- engaging an appropriate inspector to carry out the Section 23 Inspection of a Church School.

Parental Withdrawal

Collective Worship, subject to the right of withdrawal, is intended to be appropriate for, and to include all children attending our school. It is to be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character'. Worship is regarded as special time which wholly reflects our ethos as a church school but is designed to be an inclusive opportunity for those of all faiths and none. The parental right to withdraw a child from attending collective worship should be freely exercisable and we give effect to any such request. Parents are not obliged to state their reasons for seeking withdrawal. The right of withdrawal from Collective Worship would normally be exercised through the physical withdrawal of the child from the place where the act of worship is taking place.

We respect the right of parents to withdraw their child/children from acts of collective worship but we always appreciate the opportunity to discuss this decision with parents.

Links With Other Policies

R.E. Policy/SMSC Policy

Subject leader Ali Dale

Subject link Governor Richard Jackman

Date December 2022

Date for next review December 2023