

Collective Worship Policy - Sturry



Reviewed January 2021

Our Vision

As the sponsor school of The Stour Academy Trust, we actively promote collaboration in order to continue the growth and development of God's children, including those beyond our border. We are driven by our commitment to the children's well-being and education, enabling all of our children to flourish and become life-long learners.

Put simply: we work together and share the best of ourselves to help everyone around us grow and develop.

Introduction

Our Christian vision drives us to be a school committed to excellence and wanting to ensure that all pupils, staff, families and stakeholders have equal opportunities to reflect, develop spiritually, commune with God and flourish in their faith and spirituality as well as their learning. The message that Jesus gave in the 'Feeding of the Five Thousand' (Matthew 14: 13-21) reminds us that every member of our school community deserves to have the same opportunity to encounter God throughout their day and it is our role to ensure that such opportunity is distributed to as many of our community members as possible, including parents, staff and wider community members. We also ensure that by providing a space in worship, we are promoting the opportunity (amongst others) for stillness, reflection and prayer.

At Sturry CE Primary, the daily act of Collective Worship is viewed as an integral and important part of school life and all members of the School Community are encouraged to attend.

Introduction

Our Collective Worship policy strengthens and supports the Christian identity of Sturry Church of England Primary School, reaffirms our values and celebrates the contribution that each child makes to our community. Worship will reflect the variety of traditions found in the Church of England and will recognise and follow the Christian liturgical year. The daily Christian act of worship is central to our ethos and is supported by all staff and directors. It makes an important contribution to the overall spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of the whole school community.

What is Collective Worship?

Legislation requires all schools, including Voluntary Aided and Voluntary Controlled schools, to conduct daily acts of worship. However, the legislation does not define what is meant by the term 'Collective Worship'.

"...Worship in schools will necessarily be of a different character from worship amongst a group with beliefs in common. The legislation reflects this difference in referring to 'collective worship' rather than 'corporate worship'. (DfE Circular 1/94 para 57)

Corporate Worship assumes a shared set of beliefs and values i.e. a worshipping congregation meeting on a Sunday, where the worship is confessional and evangelistic (to spread the Christian gospel by public preaching or personal witness).

Collective Worship in recognising the collectivity of all participants, can make no such assumption that all have the same beliefs and values.

Collective Worship should be :

“Appropriate to the family backgrounds of the pupils and their ages and aptitudes.” (DfE Circular 1/94 p.22)

Aims

Collective Worship at Sturry Church of England Primary School, will provide opportunities for students and staff:

- to explore a relationship with God through Jesus Christ and The Holy Trinity
- to reflect on values that are of a broadly Anglican Christian tradition, whilst recognising the validity and importance of other Christian denominations
- to consider spiritual and moral issues
- to reflect on personal beliefs
- to deepen and widen the experience of those of ‘faith’ and encourage those of ‘no formal faith’
- to develop a sense of awe and wonder
- to participate in worship
- to develop a community spirit, a common ethos and shared Christian values (forgiveness; friendship; hope; compassion; trust)
- to foster an awareness of the world around them and a sense of their place within it and a concern for the needs of others

In line with the requirements of the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) schedule, we aim to ensure that Collective Worship:

- a) Offers the opportunity, without compulsion, to all pupils and adults to grow spiritually through experiences of prayer, stillness, worship and reflection.
- b) Enables all pupils and adults to appreciate that Christians worship in different ways, for example using music, silence, story, prayer, reflection, the varied liturgical and other traditions of Anglican/Methodist worship, festivals and, where appropriate, the Eucharist.
- c) Helps pupils and adults to appreciate the relevance of faith in today’s world, to encounter the teachings of Jesus and the Bible and to develop their understanding of the Christian belief in the trinitarian nature of God and its language.
- d) Enables pupils as well as adults to engage in the planning, leading and evaluation of collective worship in ways that lead to improving practice. Leaders of worship, including clergy, have access to regular training.
- e) Encourages local church community partnerships to support the school effectively in developing its provision for collective worship.

The Anglican Christian Tradition

The following are shared as Christian elements of collective worship:

- Exploring the Christian understanding of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit
- Using the Bible for inspiration, stories and guidance

- Observing the cycle of the Church's Year – Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, Pentecost and Saints Days amongst ordinary days
- Learning and saying prayers from a number of sources, in particular the Lord's Prayer and the blessings in common use
- Singing a wide variety of hymns and songs from traditional to modern
- Experiencing Christian symbols in worship and reflecting on their meaning
- The use of prayer, silence and reflection

We may also use elements which are more distinctively Anglican:

- Using prayers from Common Worship
- Using Anglican sentences and responses at the beginning and end of worship
- Using Collects as a focus for worship
- Celebrating Eucharist

Implementation

Collective worship is planned by a variety of stakeholders including staff, pupils, the incumbent of our local church and external visitors in consultation with the collective worship leader. This act of worship can take place at any time of the school day and in any regular school grouping e.g. whole school, key stage or class. Our school plans systematically and cohesively using Canterbury Diocesan Collective Worship Planning which is adapted and changed to meet the needs of our community. This ensures that there is a shared understanding of the long and short term planning of worship and this enables continuity. Visitors to our school are asked to read and comply with our school visitor and safeguarding policies. This should include discussing the content of any worship with a member of the senior leadership in order to ascertain its suitability for the school community. Visitors are never left alone with children as the supervision of pupils remains the responsibility of school staff.

We meet daily for Worship as a whole school, in the school hall. Below is an example of rota that we follow.

Sturry CE Primary School Collective Worship
Term 2 2015/2016, Collective Worship Plan - Year 6 Term 2

Monday assemblies – read/teacher – or absent (teachers do not attend lesson time with TA)
Tuesdays only – All teaching staff
Wednesday and Thursdays – whole school to attend community worship.
Friday – Christian values/All/British values – in a class/child level assembly. Whole school to attend community worship. Parents are invited to join us – 09.00am

	Date	Lead
Week 1	Theme for week: Take it back to the playground	
	28-Oct	Miss Murray
	29-Oct	Miss Lea
	30-Oct	Miss Marshall
	31-Oct	Miss O'Connell
01-Nov	Prayers – Teachers discuss – working together	
Week 2	Theme for week: Take it back to the playground	
	04-Nov	Miss Murray
	05-Nov	Miss Murphy
	06-Nov	Rev. Hannah
	07-Nov	Rev. Graham
08-Nov	Sharks – Teachers discuss – Remembrance	
Week 3	Theme for week: Remembrance Tuesday, Anti bullying week, Children in Need	
	11-Nov	Miss Murray
	12-Nov	Captain Graham
	13-Nov	Lady Helen – Road safety
	14-Nov	Rev. Peter Corrick
15-Nov	Children in need	
Week 4	Theme for week: Take it back to the playground	
	18-Nov	Miss Murray
	19-Nov	Miss Copp
	20-Nov	Christian Aid
	23-Nov	Peter Freeman
22-Nov	Prayers – Teachers discuss – Don't take your hat and ball home	
Week 5	Theme for week: Take it back to the playground	
	25-Nov	Miss Murray
	26-Nov	Miss Marshall
	27-Nov	Miss Coburn
	28-Nov	Peter Corrick
29-Nov	Caroline – Teachers discuss – Oh brother!	
Week 6	Theme for week: Trinity (or all staff)	
	01-Dec	Miss Murray
	02-Dec	Miss Marshall
	04-Dec	Lighting the Candle group
	05-Dec	Peter Freeman
06-Dec	Prayers – Teachers discuss – Anger in the temple	
Week 7	Theme for week: Christian Values (or all staff)	
	09-Dec	Miss Murray
	10-Dec	Miss Marshall
	11-Dec	Mr Wilkinson
	12-Dec	Christmas Church Service
13-Dec	Rev. – Teachers discuss – Cooperation in Bethlehem, you must be joking!	
Week 8	Theme for week: Christmas	
	16-Dec	Miss Marshall
	17-Dec	Miss Lea
18-Dec	Miss Marshall	

We are mindful of the variation in personal spiritual styles and provide a range of creative opportunities including music, silence, symbolism, drama and use of IT.

Our worship consists of 4 stages:

- *Gather* – we welcome the community, for example, (*with music, liturgy and the lighting of a candle*)
- *Engage* – we share, for example, (*a Bible reading, followed by an activity to engage pupils with the Christian message*)
- *Respond* – pupils, for example, (*discuss, share, reflect, pray or sing*)
- *Send* – we share, for example, (*the message of the worship again and ask pupils to think about how they will affect their day / learning/ behaviour. We close with liturgy, final prayer, music and the blowing out of our special candle*)

Implementation during times of class bubbles, bubble closure and lockdown

Due to the restrictions put in place to limit mass gatherings during the period beginning from March 2020, it has not been possible to have collective worship as a whole school community. Nevertheless, we strive to ensure that worship is delivered to all members of our community in some way, as it is an integral part of our school day. Worship is recorded centrally by the SLT, using the 'Fresh Approach' Canterbury Diocese planning and then carried out in class so that all members of the class community can participate when in school. When in a bubble closure or lockdown situation, the worship is delivered by the class teacher through the remote learning platform so that children at home and their families can participate.

Expectations of pupils

Pupils regularly plan and support worship on a voluntary basis. They work with the collective worship leader during to develop their own understanding of worship and to design a worship to support the spiritual development of their peers.

The School Council also take the lead on special celebrations such as Harvest and the Christingle services.

Developing Worship

The school allocates part of its budget to support the daily act of collect worship. The collective worship leader attends regular professional development with Canterbury Diocese and accesses a wide range of resources to ensure that worship is both inspiring and engaging.

Self-assessment 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 directors in order to grow and develop. We also welcome the contributions of parents and pupils through our open door policy and questionnaires, which are reviewed and considered on a regular basis (Please see Appendix 1 for the monitoring sheets that we use). These are shared with our Church School Committee and play an integral part in developing the spiritual growth of the school. Worship is independently inspected by law under Section 48 of the Education Act 2005 in consultation with the Diocese of Canterbury (SIAMS).

The legal requirements of collective worship in Voluntary Aided and Voluntary Controlled schools.

- Be conducted in accordance with the provision of the Trust Deeds of the school and Instrument of Government and should be consistent with the beliefs and practices of the Church of England
- The Directors should ensure that all pupils **each day** engage meaningfully in a real act of Christian worship which is in accordance with the faith and practice of the Church
- Arrangements for collective worship, in foundation schools of a religious character, are the responsibility of the Directors, after consulting with the Headteacher (*DfE Circular 1/94 para 52 & 53*)
- All acts of worship in Church schools must be Christian in character (based on Biblical teachings)
- All registered pupils (apart from those whose parents exercise the right to withdraw) must on 'each school day take part in an act of collective worship'

Parental Withdrawal

Worship is regarded as special time which wholly reflects our ethos as a church school. It is an inclusive opportunity for those of all faiths and none. We respect the right of parents to withdraw their child/children from acts of collective worship. However, as collective worship is central to our ethos, we would appreciate the opportunity to discuss this decision with parents.

Date of validation..... Signed.....
Chair of Directors

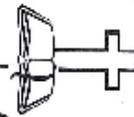
Date of review..... Signed.....
Chair of Directors

Appendix 1:

Collective Worship - Pupil voice

What did you learn about in Worship today?

Will you do anything in response to what you have learnt about today in Worship?



How did Worship make you feel today?
Tell me more about why it made you feel this way.

If you had been leading Worship today, what might you have done differently?

What did you enjoy about Worship today?

What did you not enjoy about Worship today?

Candle lit	Bible verse / story	Song	Prayer and reflection time	Children involved	Sent out with a thought
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Name: _____
 Class: _____
 Date: _____

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