

# Collective Worship Policy - Sturry

Reviewed November 2021



**The Stour Academy Trust**

# Collective Worship Policy

## Sturry Church of England Primary School

*Through the miracle of Jesus feeding the 5000, we trust that sharing all we have, will provide for all through the power of God's love.*

*This has been adapted to help the children understand our Christian vision;*

*We work together and share the best of ourselves to help everyone around us flourish in every way to become life-long learners. Through the miracle of Jesus feeding the 5000, we trust that sharing all we have will provide for all through the power of God's love.*

### Mission Statement

**At Sturry Church of England Primary School this will be achieved in an environment influenced by Christian values. Our Christian Values aim to encourage a sense of friendship, compassion, respect and truth in all children and provide the foundations for all that we do and achieve throughout the school.**

**At Sturry Church of England 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 governors. 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 schools, including Voluntary Aided and Voluntary Controlled schools, to conduct daily acts of Collective 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)

It is the responsibility of the Board of Directors, with the CEO and Head teacher, to ensure that this happens.

Collective Worship at Sturry Church of England Primary School, will support the school’s vision, by providing opportunities for students and staff to:

- Engage in an act of community
- Express praise and thanksgiving to God
- Be still and reflect
- Explore the big questions of life and respond to national events
- Foster respect and deepen spiritual awareness
- Reflect on the character of God and on the teachings of Christ through Biblical texts
- Affirm Christian values and attitudes
- Share each other’s joys and challenges
- Celebrate special times in the Christian calendar

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
- Using Psalms with simple responses



## 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 and Picture News) 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.

### Worship Rota:

<b>Monday</b>	Led by Mrs Mannings in the main hall at 9am.
<b>Tuesday</b>	Led by Mrs Powell/Miss Metcalf and Miss Lea/Mrs Stokes @ 10.20 am in main hall.
<b>Wednesday</b>	Led by class teachers. KS1 in small hall and KS2 in main hall @10.20am.
<b>Thursday</b>	Picture news worship at 10.20am in class.
<b>Friday</b>	Whole School celebration worship led by classes/ celebration worship by Mrs Manning's @ 9am.

### Example of Collective Worship rota:

	Date	Lead	Notes
	Theme for week: WKB [18/4/22]	<b>Week 1: Jesus is Alive! [Resurrection hope]</b>	
Week 1	Monday	Bank holiday	N/A
	Tuesday	Holiday	N/A
	Wednesday	CPD day	N/A
	Thursday	Jesus is alive! [Luke 24:1-12]	Miss Metcalf
	Friday	Jesus appears to the disciples and to Thomas (John 20: 19-23 and John 20:24-29)	Mrs Mannings
	Theme for week: WKB [25/4/22]	<b>Week 2: Generosity- why be generous?</b>	
Week 2	Monday	What does it mean to be generous? [1J Corinthians 9:11]	Mrs Mannings
	Tuesday	What does being generous look like? [Hebrews: 6:10]	Mrs Powell KS1 Miss Lea KS2
	Wednesday	What does being generous look like? John 13:3 3:15	Laura Jellia KS1 Dan Wilkinson KS2
	Thursday	Picture news in class	CT'S
	Friday	Celebration worship- Giraffes	Mrs Mannings
	Theme for week: WKB [2/5/22]	<b>Week 3: Generosity- being a generous with our time</b>	
Week 3	Monday	Bank holiday	N/A
	Tuesday	Being generous with our time [Matthew 10:8]	Lucy Powell KS1 Jen Stokes KS2
	Wednesday	Being generous with what we have [John 6:1-14]	Steph Hughes KS1 Jessica Cooper KS2
	Thursday	Picture news in class.	CT'S
	Friday	Celebration worship- Otters	Mrs Mannings
	Theme for week: [9/5/22]	<b>Week 4: Generosity- being a global neighbour</b>	
Week 4	Monday	PREPARING FOR CHRISTIAN AID WEEK – BEING A GLOBAL NEIGHBOUR Proverbs 31:8-9	Mrs Mannings
	Tuesday in the hall KS1 @ 9AM KS2 @10.20AM	BEING A COURAGEOUS ADVOCATE Micah 6:8	Mrs Powell KS1 Mel Lea KS2
	Wednesday @ 1PM in class	BEING A NEIGHBOUR TO ALL Luke 3:11	KS1- James O'Keefe KS2- Lucy Lungley
	Thursday @ 1PM in class	Picture news in class	CT's
	Friday @ 9AM KS1 online KS2 in the hall	Celebration worship- Bees	Mrs Mannings
	Theme for week: [16/5/22]	<b>Week 5: Generosity- Christian Aid week</b>	
Week 5	Monday @1pm online	CHRISTIAN AID 2022 Micah 6:8	Mrs Mannings
	Tuesday in the hall KS1 @ 9AM KS2 @10.20AM	CHRISTIAN AID 2022 Jeremiah 17:8	Mrs Powell KS1 Mrs Stokes KS2
	Wednesday @ 1PM in class	THE NEED FOR PRAYER Jeremiah 29:12	KS1- Laura Jellia KS2- Natasha Prosser
	Thursday @ 1PM in class	Picture news in class	CT's
	Friday @ 9AM KS1 online KS2 in the hall	Celebration worship- Wildcats	Mrs Mannings

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

### **Expectations of pupils**

Pupils regularly plan and lead worship on a voluntary basis. They work with the collective worship leader during (lunchtime/ after school club) to develop their own understanding of worship and to design a worship to support the spiritual development of their peers.

**Lighting the Candle Group** – The Light the Candle group is made up of children in Year 1-Year 6 who discuss the teaching of RE and Collective Worship in our school. We help lead prayers during Collective Worship and help to create prayer spaces around school.

**Worship Warriors** – Worship Warriors support their class during each worship. They evaluate Collective Worship and support with gathering and recording child voice during worship time.

### **Developing Worship**

The school allocates part of its budget to support the daily act of collective worship. The collective worship leader and Headteacher 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 governors in order to grow and develop. We also welcome the contributions of parents and pupils through our suggestion boxes and questionnaires, which are reviewed and considered on a regular basis, this is also discussed in the school's termly parent forum meetings. These are also 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 Governing Body/Board of 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 Governing Body, 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.

### **Information for visitors leading Collective Worship**

When briefing visitors for school worship, make sure they know:

- who exactly will attend, whether it will be the whole school or a section of it, and if so, which section
- what the school's aims, ethos and policies are
- how long the speaker is expected to talk for (15 minutes)
- the current assembly theme and context for the speaker - what has already been done and what will be done later in the term
- how pupils and staff are normally involved in collective worship
- what resources or hardware are available to them, should they so wish
- exactly how much their contribution will be - is it just the talk or will they be asked to choose the hymn and lead the prayers
- Who will introduce them and how they will know when they are to start talking
- Any sensitivities concerning the school population such as multicultural, personal issues
- The responses that the children are familiar with and remember to:
- give them plenty of notice - don't assume that a visitor who wears an RE or religious "hat" can produce a collective worship at a few moments notice!
- invite them to attend an act of collective worship beforehand so that they may see how the school conducts them, or, if this is not practical, lend them a copy of the collective worship policy document
- some visitors may also need to be told that collective worship is not an appropriate vehicle for hard sell evangelism, and that inclusive language ("we all believe...") is to be avoided
- Visitors who are regularly involved in collective worship should appreciate sensitive feedback on the appropriateness of their contribution to the school Collective Worship programme.

Date of validation ..... Signed..... Chair of Board

Date of review ..... Signed..... Chair of Board

