

Collective Worship Policy - Sturry

Reviewed January 2023



The Stour Academy Trust

Sturry Church of England Primary School

Collective Worship Policy

Mission Statement

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.

At Sturry Church of England Primary School this will be achieved in an environment influenced by our Christian Vision of Sharing the Best of ourselves and underpinned by our 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 attend.

Introduction

Our Collective Worship policy strengthens and supports the Christian identity of Sturry Church of England Primary School, reaffirms our vision and 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.

Legal requirement

Collective Worship is a legal requirement. The school must provide a Christian act of Collective Worship for all pupils every day. 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. It is the responsibility of the Board of Directors, with the CEO and Head teacher, to ensure that this happens.

Aims

Collective Worship at Sturry Church of England Primary School, will support the school's vision, by providing 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; truth; compassion; respect)
- 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



Underlying principles in the Anglican Christian Tradition

Acts of Collective Worship will contain simple liturgy, Christian message, worship song and prayer:-

- Using the Bible, as a source of knowledge and inspiration for themes and stories
- Observing the cycle of the Church's Year – Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, Pentecost, Saints Days
- Learning and saying prayers from a number of sources, in particular the Lord's Prayer
- Saying Grace at mealtimes
- Using simple liturgy e.g. *Peace be with you/And also with you; Go in peace to love and serve the Lord/In the name of Christ, Amen*
- Singing a wide variety of hymns and worship songs
- Experiencing Christian symbols in worship and reflecting on their meaning e.g. cross, crucifix, bread & wine and candles
- Using prayer, silence and reflection

Implementation

Details of how the school plans collective worship:

a) Weekly timetable (see Appendix 1)

b) those who are involved in planning collective worship – Church links, teaching staff and a pupil workshop group ('Lighting the candle')

c) evidence of an effective pattern of themes planned in advance, and available to all staff and worship leaders - Three Year plan (see Appendix 2)

d) evidence of use of varying types of worship experiences (e.g. prayer, music, silence, Bible reading, story, dance, puppets, pupil involvement and visitors etc)

e) methods of record keeping and evidence of daily records being kept – termly file, with Collective Worship evaluations and monitoring

f) allocation of budget, resources and Continuous Professional Development – agreed annually by Board of Directors

At our school, Collective Worship follows the following pattern.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Whole school worship led by SLT.	Whole school worship led by SLT.	Whole school worship led by class teachers.	Picture news. Led by class teachers.	Class worship led by class teachers and Celebration worship [led by SLT]

Monitoring and Evaluation

Evaluating the Collective Worship process

a) The Church School Committee evaluate minimum of three Collective Worship sessions a year – see Appendix 3



- b) Senior staff evaluate minimum of three Collective Worship sessions a year – see Appendix 3
- c) Pupils from Years 1 to Years 6 evaluate Collective Worship from different weekdays, minimum of 6 evaluations per year – see appendices 4 and 5

Reviewing

Evaluations (mentioned above) will be reviewed termly by the Trust Lead and Head Teacher and appropriate steps taken, if necessary.

Self assessment and inspection

School self-assessment will be regularly reviewed using the required SIAMS toolkit, staff member responsible for Collective Worship and Head Teacher.

Parental Withdrawal

Parents have the right to withdraw their child/children from acts of Collective Worship on grounds of conscience. However, as collective worship is central to our ethos, we would appreciate the opportunity to discuss this decision with parents.

If students are withdrawn from collective worship, they are supervised by an adult outside the hall, no work is given to the child unless supplied by parents and children are reintegrated for any notices or presentations.

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 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 assembly programme.

