



## **STALBRIDGE CE PRIMARY SCHOOL COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY**

### **Rationale**

The School Collective Worship Policy reflects and reinforces the school's aims and ethos.

Our vision is:

**'We believe in building each other up, in discovering the potential of our world and in ourselves; we aspire to be the best we can be, through God'**

**This is based on Romans 12: 2-8**

**Our Christian Values are Believe, Discover, Aspire.**

At Stalbridge CE Primary School we consider Collective worship to be a significant educational activity that both reflects and explores the schools distinctive Christian character and contributes to the academic achievement, personal development and wellbeing of all learners.

Therefore, Collective Worship at this school is planned to be inspirational and inclusive. It should engage all learners and they should be able to talk about the impact it makes on their relationships and on life in the school.

Will regularly include Biblical material and Christian teaching and this should explore and relate to the school's core Christian values

Will have a strong focus on God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit enabling all learners to embark on an understanding of the Trinity- we light three candles to help children to understand this.

Will help all learners to understand Anglican and other Christian traditions found in the UK and worldwide.

Will challenge all learners of all backgrounds to understand and embark on their own spiritual journey. They should understand the value of Prayer, Reflection Stillness Will contribute significantly to pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development; by

providing all learners with “something more than the obvious, something to wonder at, something to respond to”

Will be an opportunity to Celebrate and give thanks for achievements within the school, local and international community and occasions of significance, including festivals Collective worship should be an experience that does not offend the integrity of the non-religious or those of different faith.

The positive educational outcomes of Collective Worship at this school include opportunities for:

- The whole community to celebrate;
- Sharing and experiencing differences;
- Developing a culture of learning;
- Building a sense of group identity;
- Encouraging a sense of personal and social responsibility;
- A break from the busyness of life (for stillness and quiet);
- Learning how to behave in a large social group;
- Exploring feelings and emotions;
- Learning how to perform in front of an audience;
- Learning how to respond to a performance;
- Making visible the school’s leadership;
- Developing inner awareness.

### **Legal Requirements**

The law requires the Headteacher and Governing Body of every school to provide a daily act of Collective Worship which is in line with the schools Trust Deed and foundation. The School meets this requirement and is explained to all involved in the planning and delivery of acts of worship.

### **Withdrawal from Collective Worship**

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from acts of worship and this is stated in the school’s website. In a controlled school (or if they were first employed when the school was a controlled school), staff have the right to withdraw from the act of collective worship. In an aided school, the staff are expected to attend the act of collective worship. This right TUPE’s over into an academy. Stalbridge CE VC Primary is a voluntary controlled school.

It is intended that consultation will take place before formal requests are made to withdraw from acts of worship. In the case of parents or teachers contact needs to be made with the Headteacher. Guidance for new parents on non-participation in acts of Collective Worship is given in the school prospectus, website and new parent packs.

### **Planning a Collective Worship programme**

Specific time is set aside for this activity and we recognise the importance of marking out the act of Collective Worship from other assembly activities. We attempt to mark out this special time by

- Lighting three candles- inviting God to be with us. God the Father, God, Jesus, his son, God the Holy spirit
- Using liturgy- let us bless the lord, May the lord be with you
- Asking children to reflect quietly –quiet prayer
- Worship music
- Opportunities to say a prayer aloud together or individually
- Marking Church of England traditions including colours of the Christian calendar and events
- Marking national events, minute silence, using 'Diaries of Reflection' in some class

worship times. These also offer specific opportunities for reverence or veneration according to children's own beliefs and traditions.

### **Leading an act of worship**

Each person leading worship is expected to plan his or her act of worship with the same degree of thoroughness as any other aspect of their teaching. We encourage a 4-stage structure of planning including

- 'Gathering'
- 'engaging'
- 'responding'
- 'sending'.

### **Planning and Evaluation.**

- Pupils are encouraged to be involved in the planning, leading and monitoring of Collective worship.
- The curriculum governing body subcommittee review and evaluate collective worship as part of the Christian distinctiveness review.

- Canon Richard and Judy Waite (Chair of Governors) have a role monitoring Collective worship.

The programme of acts of Collective Worship is coordinated by the Headteacher working closely with Canon Richard.

### **Our pattern of Collective Worship**

Mondays: Whole school worship alternately led by the HT and Judy Waite

Tuesdays: Teacher led worship

Wednesdays; Class assembly/ Open the book

Thursdays: Hymn practice/ Ian Carr

Fridays: Celebration worship- Headteacher/ Canon Richard

Visitors have included;

- • Open Air Campaigners
- • Ian Carr (local Vicar)
- • Open the Book
- • Local Charity groups
- • Local faith groups

The acts of worship generally follow themes that are aligned to the school's values and include a recognition of the church's year and make space for other national events.

Class Teacher-led Reflections, e.g. Diaries of Reflection

Every fortnight, pupils meet in class groups for this act of worship. Pupils reflect on statements, thoughts or ideas, provided or approved by teachers. Pupils may also contribute ideas for reflection. A response may be made in diary form. Subject to usual disclosure procedures these responses are confidential between the pupils and his/her teacher. Pupils who believe in God are invited to reflect that, through these thoughts, God may be helping them to discover the most important directions and values for their lives.

Whole School celebration: Act of worship

### **Fridays**

Once a week the School gathers for this worship, in which achievements of pupils at the school are celebrated. Staff and pupils may contribute. This worship will provide opportunities for spiritual development through input by Canon Richard or Judy Waite.

### **Visitors**

Visitors should understand the educational aims of Collective Worship at the school and the need to avoid any proselytising. Attempts to persuade pupils to adopt a particular religious or non-religious belief are not appropriate. In general, the Headteacher is consulted before a visiting speaker is confirmed. Visitors should not speak about raising money for any particular cause(s) without the prior permission of the Headteacher

### **Staff and Community Involvement in Collective Worship**

Certain named individuals Canon Richard, Ian Carr, Open the book are involved on a regular basis with the worship programme. Other staff and pupils are given the opportunity of being involved in this programme every term.

Policy agreed by Curriculum and Standards Committee of Governors: 21.3.23

Due for renewal September 2025

Note a SIAMS toolkit may require earlier review.