



Collective Worship Policy

Date written: July 2023

Date agreed by Governing Body: July 2023

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Date of next review: July 2025

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1. VISION AND VALUES

VALUES

Love, Joy & Respect

Be the best we can be.

Vision Statement

Children are at the heart of all we do.

We believe that every decision should be taken in the best interests of the children.
We provide a high-quality church school education and the best life chances through nurturing Christian values of Love, Joy & Respect.

Our Curriculum

- We value all children's entitlement to an excellent education.

Our Pupils' Future

- All pupils will be supported to achieve the expectations of a knowledge-rich curriculum by educators using research informed practice.
- We invest in developing our curriculum, teaching and wider provision to achieve this.

Our Environment

- We give children the chance to learn, grow and make friends in a joyful and inclusive Christian environment.
- All children are welcomed, loved and respected regardless of their status, religion, financial background, ethnicity, abilities or gender.
- Our pupils and staff embrace challenge and feel confident in their own abilities.
- We provide them with a firm foundation for the future and the opportunity to thrive.
- We seek to instil a lifelong love of learning and to expand each child's horizons.
- We are passionate about developing independent thinkers, courageous advocates for change, confident leaders and orators all with clear aspirations.

2. DEFINITION

Worship is understood to be a special act or occasion whose purpose is to show reverence for God. In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act, which states that collective worship should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character', collective worship at Stanground St John's reflects the traditions and festivals of the Christian church and the teachings of Jesus. The word 'collective' rather than 'corporate' implies a diversity of response and belief. It is an activity which is educational and a shared experience, which respects the integrity of all those who participate.

We believe Collective Worship complements Religious Education and the Social, Moral, Spiritual and Cultural development of all pupils. It can provide an opportunity of calm in the hurly-burly of everyday school life, where we can all to reflect, appreciate and learn together.

3. OBJECTIVES OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

As outlined by the Diocese of Ely, our acts of Collective Worship can provide opportunities for:

- To help children develop an awareness of, and evoke a response to the presence of God in everyday life.
- To develop awe in the presence of mystery, wonder at life's marvels and sensitivity to questions about what lies beyond the known, visible and material.
- To explore and promote a sense of personal worth, uniqueness and identity in relation to a loving God.
- To establish and reinforce our Christian values of love, hope, caring for others forgiveness, morality, belonging, service, wholeness, courage and humility, which hold the school together as a community.
- To show how God is particularly revealed through the life, ministry, death and resurrection of Jesus, to whom both Bible and Church bear witness
- The development of a sense of belonging;
- Encouraging links with the worship of the local parish church.
- Personal reflection;
- A consideration of innermost thoughts, feelings and beliefs;
- Expressions of creativity and imagination;
- Appreciating and valuing the feelings and beliefs of others;
- Appreciating and valuing the beliefs and practices of the Church of England;
- Establishing positive school relationships (teacher/pupil, pupil/pupil) based on acceptance and appreciation;
- Exploring commitment and positive social relationships (family/work/society);
- Exploring lives, events and beliefs which exemplify qualities and universal values;
- Raising awareness of the hurt caused by injustice, aggression or rejection;
- Discernment of values by which to live;
- Experiencing and valuing the environment;
- Exploring ideas about the origin of the world and the universe;
- Becoming aware of the order and pattern within the natural world;
- Looking for meaning and purpose in the world;
- Encouraging a sense of wonder, awe and mystery in the natural world;
- Exploring how humans use language to convey inner meaning e.g. symbolism, allegory, analogy, myth, metaphor

Planning could also focus on what is sometimes thought of as the four key dimensions of spirituality:

- The Inner Dimension – the essence of a person and the search for inner meaning
- The Social and Moral Dimension – behaviour and relationships
- The Environmental Dimension – awareness of the natural world and the environment around us
- The Transcendental Dimension – response to God or whatever we see as the ultimate.

Worship in Anglican Schools should, above all, be of a quality which acknowledges God, stimulates interest, encourages involvement, provokes thought, affirms individuals and communities, encourages reflection, and is enjoyable.

4. CURRICULUM LINKS: R.E., S.M.S.C. AND P.S.H.E

We believe Collective Worship should contribute to the Religious Education and Social, Moral, Spiritual and Cultural development of all pupils. This can be achieved by, for example, sensitively attempting to evoke those senses and feelings from which, it is suggested, worship most naturally arises, such as: wonder and awe; beauty; pity; forgiveness; peace; thankfulness; loss; smallness; greatness as well as feelings of: loving; being loved; guilt; self-worth; joy; shared sadness; well-being.

5. CONTENT OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

- draw upon the Bible, either as a source book, or as an inspiration for themes and stories
- Observe the cycle of the Church's Year – Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, Pentecost, Saints Days
- Involve learning traditional prayers from a number of sources, in particular the Lord's Prayer and the Grace
- Be through singing a wide variety of hymns, from traditional to rap
- Use Christian symbols in worship and reflecting on their meaning e.g. Cross, candle
- Use prayer, silence and reflection
- Use Psalms with simple responses
- Use Anglican sentences and responses e.g. May the Lord be with you / And also with you

6. ORGANISATION OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

A programme is followed, using Ely Diocese guidance and drawing upon the needs and ethos of the school and its community. Parents, governors and volunteers are encouraged to join Collective Worship twice weekly (Wednesday & Friday). These acts of Worship have become a feature of Stanground St John's community.

Collective Worship takes place daily as a whole school at 8:55 and all pupils and staff attend. It may be led by staff, children or invited visitors. A typical weekly timetable:

- **Monday: Whole school** – World News & Philosophy– Led by our Headteacher, Mrs Hindmarsh and our Collective Worship Committee. Exploring our values and ideas through addressing big questions in the news and the world around us.
- **Tuesday: Whole school spiritual development** – Led by our local church priests Rev. Carol and Rev. Andrew Avery. Whole school worship, following Ely Diocese church year themes, explicitly teaching messages using stories, linking into Christian festivals and special days.
- **Wednesday: Spiritual development**, - Led by all our classes. Following church year themes, explicitly teaching messages using stories, linking Christian and world religion festivals. Parents are welcome and invited to attend.
- **Thursday: Whole school Worship through singing** – Led by our Deputy Headteacher, Mrs Sheridan. Hymn words are explained and their meaning explored. The hymns are often chosen in themes, in line with the church calendar and to complement our exploration of values and dispositions
- **Friday: Whole school celebrating achievement in the context of Christian Values**– Led by our Headteacher, Mrs Hindmarsh. Recognising and celebrating, emphasising the community and individual achievements and how we best put to use our God given gifts. Parents are welcome and invited to attend.

7. FORMAT OF WORSHIP

Worship should have a sense of occasion. It can provide opportunities which the hurly-burly of everyday life may not, e.g. to gain perspective; to reflect; to be still; to be quiet; to learn from each other; to be together with others in a distinctive, different way.

Planning for Worship should entail the following five stages:

1. Gather

The Year 6 Collective Worship Committee prepare each morning for us to gather together for Collective Worship. An appropriate atmosphere is created by music, images and/or singing to focus attention. All pupils and adults enter the hall in silence. A table, covered in a **coloured cloth according to the church season, cross, bible, a candle and three figurines representing our school values of Love, Joy and Respect**, form a focus point for worship.

2. Greeting

All Worship is begun with the lighting of the candle and the greeting '**May the Lord be with you**'.

3. Engage

Worship leaders use a variety of ways to share their message – story, role play, visuals, poetry, drama. Children are eager and encouraged to participate fully.

4. Respond (Reflect & Pray)

We welcome the opportunity to spend a few moments reflecting on the theme and praying at the end, possibly using the Lord's Prayer, saying Grace or prayers, be they spoken, sang or acted. There may also be a blessing. Children are always given the option to join in prayers or to sit quietly with their thoughts. During Monday Worship, children will often compose the prayer and then read it themselves.

5. Send

The thought of the day is reiterated through a question, statement, suggestion or visual reminder. We extinguish the candle at this point (using the blessing '**Go in Joy to Love and Respect the Lord**') and children leave the hall in an orderly and thoughtful manner.

8. OPPORTUNITIES, INCLUSION AND SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS.

Staff and Governors are committed to ensuring that opportunities for worship are relevant to all pupils and pay due regard to their ages, abilities, backgrounds and interests. We aim to recognise the equality of each child in God's sight, whatever the child's gender, race, physical or mental ability. Staff, governors and visitors attempt to ensure that materials and subject matter used in collective worship are appropriate for the range of all pupils in school.

9. SERVICES IN CHURCH

The whole school community enjoys services at our local parish Church St John the Baptist, where we celebrate major Christian festivals. These include Harvest, Christmas and Easter. We also hold special services in school where we celebrate our achievements as a school family. These include Ash Wednesday and Advent.

10. MONITORING AND EVALUATION.

Strategies currently used for assessing the outcomes of collective worship include:

- Observation of children's reaction and participation during worship.
- Feedback from children in class - written or verbal, including Pupil Council.
- Parents' comments.
- Observation of children's behaviour.
- Monitoring and dialogue with lead teachers, church and governors.

11. WITHDRAWAL FROM COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Parents have the legal right (in accordance with 1988 Education Reform Act) to withdraw their child from Collective Worship. In this case, the parent should put this request in writing. The school would be happy to discuss the matter with parents to clarify what school worship involves and also to make arrangements for the supervision of the child. Teachers have similar rights.