

## King's Stanley Church of England Primary School Collective Worship Policy

King's Stanley Primary School is a Church of England school and as such worship is based on Christian faith. This is reflected in the assemblies and ethos of the school. King's Stanley Primary is a 'controlled' school. This means that the school is entirely funded by the LA. However, the worship which takes place in school at assemblies and other services is under the control of the Foundation governors and maybe denominational. The school acknowledges the importance of assemblies in promoting the spiritual and moral development of the children. Whether or not they come from a churchgoing family, we aim in our worship to nourish the awareness of the spiritual side of existence and God in creation.

### 1 Aims

#### 1.1 The aims and purpose of collective worship are:

- to provide an experience of worship that will allow children to respond to the presence, power and peace of God
- to introduce children to Christian language, symbolism and the cycle of the church year
- to celebrate the gifts that each child bring to the school community, recognising the uniqueness of each individual
- to enable children to consider spiritual and moral issues
- to enable children to explore their own beliefs
- to encourage participation and response
- to foster a concern for others within the school and wider world
- to promote a common ethos, with shared values, and to reinforce positive attitudes;
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### 2 Collective worship

2.1 We understand worship to be a special act or occasion whose purpose is to show reverence to God. Collective worship involves all members of the school coming together and participating in an assembly. We expect everyone to take an active part in the assembly.

2.2 In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act, which states that collective worship should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character', we normally base our assemblies on the teachings of Christ and the traditions of the Christian Church. However, we conduct our assemblies in a manner that is sensitive to the faiths and beliefs of all members of the school and community.

While most acts of worship in our school are Christian, we also hold assemblies that reflect the traditions of other religions.

### 3 Organisation of collective worship

3.1 We hold a daily act of collective worship. This forms part of each daily assembly, which can be either a whole-school assembly, a Key Stage assembly or a class assembly.

3.2 We conduct assemblies in a dignified and respectful way. We tell children that assembly time is a period of calm reflection. We regard it as a special time, and expect children to behave in an appropriate way. We ask them to be quiet and thoughtful, to listen carefully to the teachings, and to participate fully in prayer and hymns. We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music, our school cross and sometimes other objects, to focus the attention of the children.

The assemblies are normally conducted by the Head Teacher or other members of staff, but other visitors from the local community also lead worship on different occasions.

3.4 We take the themes of our assemblies from the traditions of the Christian faith, and we observe the festivals and mark the events of the Christian calendar. Sometimes the themes of our assemblies are related to topics that we teach as part of the school curriculum e.g. Citizenship, Personal, Social and Health Education and are linked to the SEAL scheme (Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning)

3.5 Our assemblies reflect the achievements and learning of the children. We encourage the children to participate in the assemblies by showing their work to the other children, and by raising issues that they have discussed in their classes. Assemblies provide an opportunity to reward children for their achievements both in and out of school. They also play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school, which is that all children are valued, and all achievements are recognised.

3.6 Throughout the year Key Stage Two classes will lead an assembly that parents are invited to attend. We encourage their attendance, as this promotes community spirit, and shows the school and the homes working together in support of the children's achievements.

School services are held in church throughout the year: at the beginning of the school year, Christmas, Easter and at the end of term 6 when the Y6 children present a celebration of their junior school years.

### 4 Legal Framework and the Right of withdrawal

4.1 There must be a daily act of collective worship for all pupils, which takes account of their age and aptitude. (Education Reform Act 1988)

4.2 We expect all children to attend assembly. However, any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from religious worship, and the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during that part of the assembly. Parents do not have to explain or give reasons for their request. This right of withdrawal complies with the 1944 Education Act, and was restated in the 1988 Education Reform Act. The Head Teacher keeps a record of all children who have been withdrawn from collective worship.

### 5 Monitoring, Evaluating and Review

5.1 Monitoring the policy and practice of collective worship is the role of a named Foundation governor, who is also responsible for religious education. The governor concerned will visit class RE lessons and acts of worship throughout the year. They will also liaise with the Head Teacher and report to the governors. All Governors are welcomed and encouraged to attend collective worship.

5.2 The worship will be evaluated by the pupils and staff in informal discussions with the Foundation Governors. Comments from these discussions will be recorded and used to inform future planning of worship.

5.3 This policy will be reviewed at least every two years.