

Collective Worship Policy

Date reviewed: September 2019

King's Stanley C of E Primary School

Collective Worship Policy

At King's Stanley Primary School we respect and value all children, and through our school vision '*Where we care about each other and our learning*' we are committed to creating meaningful, supportive and regular whole school Collective Worship environment. King's Stanley Primary is a 'controlled' school, meaning that the school is entirely funded by the LA. However, the worship which takes place in school is under the control of the Foundation Governors. The school acknowledges its importance in promoting the spiritual and moral development of the children, as outlined in the accompanying 'Spiritual and Personal Development Policy'. Whether or not they come from a churchgoing family, the act of worship aims to nourish the awareness of the spiritual side of existence and God in creation. Collective Worship and assemblies are not the same. The school community meets together for Collective Worship and there are other times when they assemble together for other purposes e.g. notices, distribution of certificates. Sometimes assembly will follow immediately after collective worship

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

2. Collective worship

2.1 Worship is understood 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 act of worship. Everyone is expected to take an active part in the worship.

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', the acts of worship are normally based on the teachings of Christ and the traditions of the Christian Church. However acts of worship are conducted 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 the school are Christian, worships that reflect the traditions of other religions are also held.

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3. Organisation of collective worship

- 3.1** A daily act of collective worship is held and this forms part of each daily worship, which can be either a whole-school worship, a Key Stage worship or a class worship.
- 3.2** Worship is conducted in a dignified and respectful way. Children are told that worship time is a period of calm reflection - a special time – and children are expected to behave in an appropriate way. They are asked to be quiet and thoughtful, to listen carefully to the teachings and to participate fully in prayer and hymns. An appropriate atmosphere is introduced by using music, the school cross and sometimes other objects, to focus the attention of the children. The assemblies are normally conducted by the Head Teacher, Deputy Head Teacher or other members of staff, but other visitors from the local community also lead worship on different occasions.
- 3.3** The themes of assemblies are taken from the traditions of the Christian faith and festivals and events of the Christian calendar are observed. Sometimes the themes are related to topics forming 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), our Golden Rules and our Christian values.
- 3.4** The acts of worship reflect the achievements and learning of the children, who are encouraged to participate in the assemblies by showing their work to the other children and by raising issues that they have discussed in their classes. Worship provides an opportunity to reward children for their achievements both in and out of school, which is, that all children are valued and all achievements are recognised.
- 3.5** 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 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** All children are expected to attend worship. 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 worship. Parents do not have to explain or give reasons for their request. This right of withdrawal complies with 1944 Educations 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,

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Deputy 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 informed 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 every two years.