



Staple Grove C of E Primary School Collective Worship Policy

This policy should be taken and used as part of Staple Grove C of E Primary School's overall strategy for Religious Education and implemented within the context of our vision, instrument of government aims and our values as a Church of England's School.

The Governing body in consultation with the head teacher has formally adopted this policy.

It is consistent with the overall aims of the school which are to

- Admire the wonders of God's world together,
 - Inspire a love of life-long learning in everybody,
 - Make a welcoming and exciting place for everybody,
- And to
- Share and care for everybody in it.

This policy is consistent with the Christian foundation of the school as expressed in the Trust Deed. It takes into account the worship guidelines, "Church School Leadership- a handbook for head teachers of Church of England School. It is also based on the Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools (SIAS)

The Legal requirements for Collective Worship

The 1988 Education act stated that:

- All pupils must take part in a collective act of worship every day
- The act of collective worship may be as a whole school or in different age groupings.
It may happen at any time during the school day.
- It has to take place on the school premises. Additional acts of worship can take place off the school premises but must be in addition to the statutory act of collective worship on site.
 - The Governing body is responsible for ensuring the legal requirements for Collective Worship are met in consultation with the head teacher.
 - The character and content of collective worship in these schools continues to be determined by governing bodies in accordance with their trust deeds.
 - All staff, including the head teacher have the legal right to withdraw from the Act of Collective Worship. The head teacher remains responsible for finding someone suitable to organise and lead the acts of worship.
 - All parents have the right to withdraw their children from Collective Worship, wholly or partially. The school's responsibility for the child's health and safety is still paramount.

Collective worship is understood to be an essential part of the life at Staple Grove Church of England VC Primary School. It is the means by which the work, activities, the school family and the wider community, are offered to God through prayer, praise and celebration.

The ethos of the school is both underpinned and developed by the Christian values, teaching and reflection, which are encountered during times of worship. To this end, all aspects of the

school life including the academic, social, recreational and pastoral, are considered to be part of our giving to God in worship and praise.

Aims and Objectives

The school's respect and commitment to Collective Worship is a reflection of its commitment to God and His Church, and reflects its Church of England foundation.

Staplegrave school's aims for collective worship are

- To provide the opportunity for the school community to worship God
- To consider spiritual, moral, social and cultural issues
- To enable individuals to explore their own beliefs
- To encourage participation and response (active and/or passive)
- To develop community spirit
- To promote and express the school ethos and shared values
- To reinforce positive attitudes

Organisation and Planning

There is a form of Collective Worship on a daily basis. Each singular act of collective worship is part of a whole school programme. The current terms pattern and themes are displayed on the school notice board.

When planned and executed well and with sincerity, collective worship can be a rich source of inspiration for the whole school and a focus for all that is good and worthy of celebration.

Acts of worship should be prepared in advance. A member of staff attending the service records each daily Collective Worship in the special diary.

The RE Co-ordinator will oversee monitor this planning and recording

The pattern of the Collective Worship is

Monday led by head teacher-Weekly theme

Tuesday led by Lay Reader- Lectionary

Wednesday led by Jo Harvey/ Caroline Banks-Hymn Practise

Thursday led by Annette Law/Kirsty Moneagle- Celebration

Friday led by class teacher-Weekly theme

The collective worship will always contain a prayer and a reflective time. It might also include the following

- Singing hymns or songs
- Music
- Reading from the bible
- Telling stories
- Drama/dance
- Visitors
- Lord's Prayer
- Silence
- Visual aids/artefacts
- Silence
- Poetry

Each class participates in a class prayer in their classrooms at the beginning of the lunchtime. These are written by the children and presented in a class book.

Resources are available in the RE cupboard in The Den, from the head teacher, from the RE co-ordinator and the following websites:

www.culham.ac.uk/CW/assemblies
www.assemblies.org.uk

Worship in the wider community

Whenever appropriate, children should have the opportunity to worship alongside members of the wider community. The head teacher represents the school on the ministry and mission team from the church and helps lead half termly workshops. These support the Christian celebrations of Harvest, Christmas, Education Sunday, Mothering Sunday and Easter and a representation of the school attends the Sunday service at St Johns church following each workshop.

All members of our school attend a collective Worship in St John the Evangelist Church once a term- Harvest, Easter, Christmas and Leaver Service.

Year 6 children attend the Leavers Service at Wells Cathedral to celebrate their time in Primary Education. This will be part of the child's entitlement and no charge will be made for this.

A group of children and parents attend the Children's Festival at Wells Cathedral. This is organised by Kate Taylor.

Outside Speakers

Occasionally outside speakers may be invited to address or lead an act of collective worship. Before leading or addressing an act of collective worship outside speakers will be given the opportunity to read this statement on collective worship. There are guidelines for outside speakers available in the Collective Worship file.

Visiting speakers should be accompanied by another member of staff and should not:

- a) preach controversial doctrines or political opinions
- b) invite children to attend meetings outside school without the permission
- c) raise money unless it has been agreed prior to the assembly and with the full consent of the head teacher.

Withdrawal from Collective Worship

Parents may ask for their child to be totally or partially withdrawn from Collective Worship in accordance with the Education Act. They are advised of this right in the school prospectus and asked to contact the head teacher to make arrangements. No reason has to be given but discussion with parents over the issues concerned is recommended in circular 1/94. All staff also have the right to withdraw from collective worship.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the spirit, aims and practice for collective worship at Staplegrove C of E VC Primary School are captured in the DfEE circular 1/94, paragraph 50 which states,

“Collective Worship in schools should aim to provide the opportunity for pupils to Worship God, to consider spiritual and moral issues and to explore their own beliefs; to encourage participation and response, whether through active involvement in the presentation of worship or through listening to and joining in the worship offered; and to develop community spirit, promote a common ethos and shared values and reinforce positive values.”

As a church of England School, the ethos and spiritual dimension of collective worship, will be Christian in particular and Anglican in general. Above all, collective worship is understood to be an integral and essential feature of school life and serves to inform and offer to God all that is good in the life of the school.

Signed: Headteacher_____

Signed: Chair of Curriculum committee_____

Date_____