

# Collective Worship Policy



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## **Stoke Holy Cross Primary School**

### **Collective Worship Policy**

#### **Aims and purpose**

Worship has a wide range of meanings and forms of expression. For some people this might be devotion to a divine being, power or personal God; for others it might mean reflection on and understanding of those elements of life which are of value and worth.

The aims and purpose of collective worship are:

- to provide an opportunity for the children to worship God;
- to enable children to consider spiritual and moral issues;
- to enable children to explore their own beliefs;
- to encourage participation and response;
- to develop in children a sense of community spirit;
- to promote a common ethos with shared values and to reinforce positive attitudes;
- to teach children how to worship.
- to promote racial harmony and respect for all, combating prejudice and discrimination.

#### **Collective worship**

We understand worship to be a special act or occasion whose purpose is to show reverence to God. Collective worship will involve all members of the school coming together and participating in a whole school worship or class groups may gather individually. We expect everyone to take an active part in any act of worship.

In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act (and Circular 1/94 which the government released in 1994), we will ensure that our worship will be ‘wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character’. However, we will conduct our worship in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs of all members of the school.

While the majority of acts of worship in our school are Christian, we also hold worship that reflects other religious traditions that are represented in the school and the wider community.

#### **Organisation of collective worship**

We hold a daily act of collective worship in our school. These may be held as whole school, key stage or separate class occasions.

We conduct worship in a dignified and respectful way. We tell children that worship time is a period of calm reflection. We regard it as a special time and expect children to behave in an appropriate way as best they can. We ask them to be quiet and thoughtful and to listen carefully to the teachings and participate fully in prayer and hymns. We create an

appropriate atmosphere by using music and sometimes candles or other objects that act as a focal point for the attention of the children.

The head teacher or other members of staff normally conduct worship, but sometimes local clergy or other representatives of local religious groups conduct them instead.

We take the themes of our worship from the traditions of the Christian faith and we often reflect the festivals and events of the Christian calendar. Sometimes the themes of our assemblies and worship reflect and build on topics that we teach as part of the school curriculum.

Our worship reflects the achievements and learning of the children. We encourage the children to participate in worship by showing their work to the other children and raising issues that they have discussed in their classes. Worship offers an opportunity to acknowledge and reward children for their achievements both in and out of schools. They play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school, which is that all children are valued and all achievements are recognised.

Parents and governors are invited to share some of our collective worship, as this promotes the community spirit of the school and is a practical demonstration of the way the home and the school work together to support the achievements of our children.

### **Right of withdrawal**

We expect all children to attend worship. However, any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from attending religious worship and the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during the period concerned. Parents do not have to explain or give reasons for this. This complies with the 1944 Education Act and was restated in the 1998 Education Reform Act.

Signed:

Date:

Collective Worship