



Staverton CE Primary School

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

(to be read in conjunction with Our Values Statement)

“The school aims to serve its community by providing education of the highest quality within the context of Christian belief and practice. It encourages an understanding of the meaning and significance of faith, and promotes Christian values through the experience it offers to all of its pupils.”

School Ethos Statement

Philosophy

It is the intention of Staverton CE Primary School that all collective worship in the school shall be in accordance with the principles and practice of the Christian faith, within the Anglican tradition. It reflects the Christian understanding of God as Trinity. This will include belief in God the source of all being and life, belief in Jesus who reveals God’s love by his life, death and resurrection and belief in the Holy Spirit who makes the presence of Jesus known in the world. We welcome the opportunity to include other faiths and denominations in our acts of collective worship.

Aims

We aim, through our assembly times to:

- Strengthen the community of the school and celebrate the uniqueness of each member of the school;
- Promote the spiritual, moral, cultural and mental development of the pupils;
- Prepare pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of life;
- Appreciate that people differ and should be approached in a spirit of openness and respect;
- Promote understanding of the nature of God, as revealed in the Bible and in the person of Jesus Christ;
- Introduce children to the value and experience of prayer and the Bible;
- Promote feelings of awe and wonder, love, compassion and personal commitment;
- Celebrate the values and worth of this school and share the gifts and talents of all the pupils.

Daily Collective Worship

Our collective worship is a valued, important and essential part of the school day and week in which we provide a positive experience of Christian life, aiming to fascinate, challenge and inspire. Our collective worship also provides an opportunity for the whole of the school community to join together to celebrate and support all aspects of school life and provide stillness and reflection in our busy and active days.

All acts of worship are conducted in a dignified and respectful way. We remind 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 and to listen carefully to the teachings and participate fully in prayer and hymns. We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music and candles or other visual objects that act as a focal point for the attention of the children.

We hold daily acts of collective worship. We plan assemblies for the whole term in advance, which are planned over a two year cycle. Each ‘small’ term we have a specific theme that reflects one of the school’s Christian values. Each week we focus on a specific aspect of that theme (see example below). Our assemblies also reflect the traditions of the Christian faith and the festivals and events of the Christian calendar.

	W/B:	W/B:	W/B:	W/B:	W/B:	W/B:	W/B:
Value: Creativity	An artist’s eye on creation	Carers of creation	The miracle of creation	Harvest- creation	Using our senses to enjoy creation	Celebrating the creation of new life	What creation/creativity have you seen in school this term? (Children led)
Book/Bible reference	Song of songs Chapter 2 verses 11-12	Psalm 8	The Creation Genesis 1, 2		Lucy’s picture	Psalm 139 v13-16	

The format for our collective worship is as follows:

- Monday: Introduction of the weekly worship linked to one specific aspect of the termly value by the Headteacher.
- Tuesday: Continuation of the theme by the Deputy Headteacher.
- Wednesday: Worship through music (tying songs and hymns to the theme where possible).
- Thursday: Celebration Assembly led by the Headteacher (which includes 'Shining Lights'; children who have demonstrated the value during the previous week).
- Thursday: Continuation of the theme by a teacher.
- Friday: Continuation of the theme by clergy (fortnightly basis) or conclusion to the weekly theme (Deputy Headteacher).

Special services are held at important times in the Christian calendar e.g. Harvest, Christingle, Christmas, Easter and Pentecost. Most of these services are held in the village Church and parents and friends are invited.

Approach

Some of the many methods and approaches used to achieve our aims are by:

- Providing opportunities for worship, thought, prayer and meditation in creative silence, stimulated by music, art, poetry drama etc.;
- Providing a variety of activities in which children can take part and share responses;
- Leading others in prayer through a variety of forms;
- Sharing Bible stories and events and stories from the lives of Christians and other people through the ages;
- Using website and DVD material;
- Inviting members of the community to speak of their interests and representatives of charities to tell of their work;
- Discussing topical matters of international, national and local news;
- Encouraging children to plan, take or take part in group assemblies;
- Collaborating with the local church community.

The school has a 'School Prayer' and an 'End of the Day Prayer' which may be used during collective worship, however, other prayers, traditional, contemporary and bespoke are also used. Adults and children have access to a range of books, Bibles, plays, prayers and other resources within the school Challenge area and library. The internet is also regularly used for collective worship material.

Withdrawal From Collective Worship

Parents have the legal right to withdraw their children from collective worship within school. Should parents make such a request, they need to do so in writing and are then invited to discuss this with the Headteacher. Appropriate arrangements for these children will be made, following consultation.

Monitoring of Collective Worship

We ask adults and children to evaluate collective worship on a regular basis and we scrutinise such evaluations to inform change and future planning. A Foundation governor also undertakes annual monitoring of collective worship.

Signed.....

Date

Chair of Governors