



Living by our Christian Values of

Peace  
Trust  
Love  
Hope  
Friendship



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# Collective Worship Policy

## St Edward's CE Primary School

Approved by:	Governors	Date: October 2017
Committee:	Full Governing Body	Co-ordinator: Jennie Warlow
Last reviewed on:	September 2017	
Next review due by:	September 2019	

### 1 Aims and purpose

#### 1.1 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;



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- to promote a common ethos with shared Christian values of; love, peace, trust, friendship and hope and in doing so reinforce positive attitudes;
- to teach children how to worship.
- to acknowledge and respect difference and diversity

## **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 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', we normally base our acts of worship on the teachings of Christ and traditions of the Christian Church. However, we conduct our acts of worship in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs of all members of the school and may make reference to the beliefs of others.

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

## **3 Organisation of collective worship**

**3.1** We hold a daily act of collective worship in our school. This forms part of each daily act of worship, which is normally whole-school.

**3.2** We conduct our acts of worship in a dignified and respectful way. We tell children that it 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 sometimes candles or other objects that act as a focal point for the attention of the children.

**3.3** Pupils are also encouraged to write prayers, either in lessons or voluntarily at home, which may be read out by them or an adult if they prefer. (Prayers are also said before lunch and at the end of the day.) Pupils learn and say together, The Lord's Prayer, The Grace, Lunchtime Prayer and Home time prayer.



**3.4** Adults, pupils and the local clergy are responsible for leading acts of worship. Occasionally, representatives of local religious groups may conduct them.

**3.5** Acts of worship promote the ethos and Christian values of the school, which is, that all children are valued and all achievements are recognised.

**3.6** We welcome governors' attendance at our acts of worship.

**3.7** We welcome parents' attendance at our termly Church Services, Harvest, Christmas, Easter and the end of the school year. They take place in church and are led by school.

**3.8** The Collective Worship coordinator monitors the impact of worship in all of its different forms across the school.

**3.9** Each Classroom has a Worship Corner, whereby Collective Worship is reinforced and provides opportunities for children to extend their prayer and thought processes.

Each week the pupils lead an act of worship in their classrooms- Wednesday Worship.

## **4 Right of withdrawal**

**4.1** We expect all children to attend acts of 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 1988 Education Reform Act.

**4.2** The head teacher keeps a record of all children who withdraw from collective worship.

## **5 Monitoring and review**

**5.1** It is the role of the Governing Body to monitor the policy and practice of collective worship. The governors support the school with all issues relating to SIAMS.

