



Stocksfield Avenue Primary School

Collective Worship Policy Statement



It is a legal requirement that all registered school-age pupils take part in an act of worship each day. These acts of worship must be “wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian Character” for the majority of the time. They must also be “appropriate, having regard to the ages, aptitudes and family backgrounds of the pupils”.

We recognise that there are children from Christian families, but that there are also children who are from religions other than Christianity, and some from non-religious backgrounds. We know that in asking our children to worship, we have to consider the background that our children come from and it is therefore not the practice of this school to preach to or convert the children. The faith background of both the staff and the child’s family is respected at all times.

The Collective Worship Policy at Stocksfield Avenue Primary School is consistent with the philosophy and aims of the school as expressed in the school prospectus. Parents have a right to withdraw their children from Collective Worship. If a parent asks for their child to be wholly or partly excused from attending Collective Worship at the school, the school must comply unless the request is withdrawn. Any parent who wishes to exercise this right should consult the Head Teacher. Teachers may also withdraw from worship.

This policy outlines the purpose, nature and management of collective acts of worship within Stocksfield Avenue Primary School and pays due regard to statutory requirements, and has taken account of the guidance offered by the LA through its SACRE. The policy reflects the views of all the teaching staff and governors of the school. The implementation of this policy is the responsibility of all teaching staff and will be monitored by the Head Teacher / Co-ordinator.

Aims

We believe at this school that Collective Worship both supports and strengthens what we aim to do in every aspect of school life. Our caring ethos, and the value which we place on the development of the whole child, spiritually, morally, socially, culturally and intellectually is reflected in our worship. We value this special time in the school day for the time it gives children to develop a reflective approach to life and the ability to express their reflections in traditionally religious ways or any other appropriate manner. It also means that everyone hears the same messages, and these can be referred to, and reinforced during the day/week.

Through our Collective Worship, we aim to provide a caring and supporting environment for children to:

- become increasingly aware of themselves as individuals and groups within the school and wider community;
- grow in understanding of the feelings of the other people in every day situations and beliefs;
- provide the opportunity for children's spirituality to be developed and expressed;
- develop an increasing understanding of how Christians worship, how they express their faith and how they understand it;
- promote a common ethos with shared values, and to reinforce positive attitudes;
- acknowledge diversity, religious or otherwise;
- deepen their sense of awe and wonder about the world around them;
- respond freely to religious and/or spiritual stimulus;
- celebrate special occasions together, such as festivals;
- celebrate and give thanks for achievements within school life, the local community, the wider world.

Our Approach to Worship

At Stocksfield Avenue, we combine our daily acts of worship with assembly, helping to ensure that worship takes place within a broad educational framework. This will include providing opportunity for:

- Thinking
- Sharing
- Listening
- Stillness and silence
- A prayer

It may also include :-

- A focus e.g. A lighted candle, an artefact, pictures or natural object
- A story, poem or Bible passage
- A piece of music
- A hymn or song
- Accounts of events or personal experiences
- Posters, pictures etc
- Man-made objects
- Time for reflection

At times, Collective Worship provides an opportunity to reflect on, and highlight classroom work, for example, work on Famous People, Working Together and work around other religions. Collective Worship can also feed into the curriculum by providing ideas and suggestions that can be followed up in classroom work, for example Children In Need day, Chinese New Year and Disasters (e.g. Tsunamis) as they occur.

Acts of worship are included in the following:-

Monday	KS1/UKS2 Assembly		
Tuesday	LKS2 Assembly		
Wednesday	2.45 – 3.15	UKS2 Singing Worship	Music Co-ordinator
Thursday	9.00 – 9.30	LKS2 Singing Worship	Music Co-ordinator
Friday	9.00 – 9.30	Whole School Achievement	Head / Deputy
Friday	2.45 – 3.15	KS1 Singing Worship	Music Co-ordinator

On days when there are no Key Stage assemblies, an act of worship will take place in the classroom. There is a timetable of class assemblies throughout the year to which parents are invited.

Children, staff, governors and parents are all welcome to our end of term Carol Service held in The Church of the Holy Cross. Parents of Year 4 children are invited to the Harvest Festival, parents of Year 5 to the Easter Service.

Outside agencies, including charity representatives and members of other churches and faiths are invited, where appropriate, to share their experiences with the children. Children's sensitivity to the needs of others is highlighted in practical terms by a variety of fundraising activities such as Children in Need and Harvest Festival.

Range of Assembly Themes

Collective Worship is a whole-school issue. A balanced, planned programme is planned half-termly, and focuses around British / School Values. The school year has been divided into themes which encompass religious festivals and special days, known national or international events, and aspects taken from the school calendar / curriculum.

Equal Opportunities

It is important that all acts of worship allow some time for children to reflect at their own level and that all children derive some benefit from Collective Worship, whatever their academic ability. All children should be given the opportunity to contribute to reflection and readings, and to participate generally in assemblies and church services on a regular basis.

Monitoring and Evaluation

We evaluate the effectiveness of assemblies using several strategies for assessing individual outcomes of Collective Worship. They include:

- Observation of levels of interest shown during worship;
- Classroom feedback from pupils;
- Parents comments;
- Observation of children's behaviour towards each other around the school.
- It is also the role of a named Governor with responsibility for Religious Education and Collective Worship to monitor the policy and practice. The Governor liaises with the co-ordinator before reporting to the Governors on Religious Education and Collective Worship.

Assembly Resources

Materials which specifically support the programme of assembly themes, and which give guidance on worship, are stored in the Stock Room outside the Year 5/6 corridor, and in the Deputy Head Teacher's office. Individual staff members also retain a variety of resources within their own classroom. We also support the Social and Emotional development of our pupils through making links with the new PSHE Association Programme of study.

Useful websites for Collective Worship include:

www.assemblingcitizens.co.uk

www.assemblies.org.uk

www.natsoc.org.uk

www.prayingeachday.prg/

www.reonline.org.uk

www.retoday.org.uk

www.schoolsassemblies.btinternet.co.uk

As this is a statutory policy, it is reviewed every two years.

Person Responsible: Co-ordinator / Full staff

Reviewed: January 2018

Next Review Due: January 2020