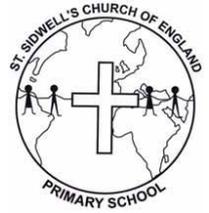


ST. SIDWELL'S C. E. PRIMARY SCHOOL

Policy for Collective Worship



Rationale:

As a church school, we wish to provide opportunities for everyone to explore their own spirituality and to share experiences within a Christian community. The daily act of collective worship is a special time in our school, when for a short while we can all come together to share a quiet, reflective moment and to feel part of that Christian community.

Aims:

We aim for children to:

- Understand that worship is a special time each day in our school.
- Appreciate the difference between assembly and worship.
- Respect and honour our expectations for assembly and worship.
- Become familiar with, and take part in, the rituals of worship.
- Have a time for quiet reflection.
- Have opportunities to express their thoughts and feelings within the context of a theme for worship.
- Appreciate the Christian nature of worship in our school whilst retaining respect, tolerance and understanding of other faiths.
- Begin to understand the pattern of the Church year, as reflected in the themes for worship.
- Be actively involved in planning and leading acts of collective worship.
- Enjoy being part of our whole school Christian community.

Guidelines:

To achieve these aims we will:

- Ensure, through discussion, that children understand the purpose and importance of daily worship, how they are expected to behave and why this is important.
- Establish rituals for daily worship, which the children can become familiar with - i.e. quiet music, the "thinking candle" to focus on, a quiet time for reflection, a prayer, a song or hymn.
- Explain to children the significance of the rituals of worship and how they should respond.
- Take an active part in daily worship and model responses to children.
- Welcome parents, visitors and all school staff to share in any act of collective worship.
- Promote the school's Christian beliefs, values and traditions through shared experiences in collective worship.
- Create an atmosphere for worship that will help children to concentrate, reflect and grow spiritually.
- Ensure that celebrations also include some elements of worship.
- Provide a variety of starting points to maintain children's interest, including stories, accounts, poetry, artefacts, plants and natural objects.

In addition, the Headteacher and teacher with responsibility for collective worship will:

- Be responsible for arranging the themes for the daily act of collective worship in consultation with the local clergy who represent the Governing Body.
- Organise rotas for leading worship.
- Ensure the ministry team from the United Benefice St. Mark, St Sidwell's and St Matthew's and the I.C.E. team are informed of themes for collective worship.
- Ensure that the themes for worship offer children a wide range of opportunities to explore and reflect upon Christian beliefs, values and traditions and how these may affect their lives.
- Encourage all members of staff to take part in, and sometimes lead, daily worship.
- Facilitate the children's worship club to plan, deliver and evaluate collective worship.
- Respect any parent's right to withdraw their child from collective worship.

Approved by Gov's C & C committee – 24th June 2015

To be reviewed June 2018