

"For we are the handiwork of God, born in Christ Jesus to do good works that God has pre-planned for us to do" Ephesians 2:10



St Stephen's CE Primary School

### Collective Worship Policy- January 2020

Collective worship at St Stephen's School is regarded as a vital part of the school day and is treated with great importance.

#### **Philosophy**

The Education Act of 1988 states that:

*"Collective worship in schools should aim to provide the opportunity for pupils to worship God, to consider spiritual and moral issues and to explore their own beliefs; to encourage participation and response, whether through active involvement in the presentation of the worship or through listening and joining in the worship offered; and to develop community spirit, promote a common ethos and shared values and reinforce positive attitudes."*

The Collective Worship Policy at St Stephen's School pays due regard to statutory requirements, and has taken account of the guidance offered by the LEA through its SACRE.

The Collective Worship Policy of St Stephen's School reflects the philosophy and aims of the school as expressed in the school prospectus.

The Christian values and ethos of St Stephen's CE School as outlined in our acrostic ASPIRE are embedded in the way we treat others, how we develop attitudes to citizenship and community cohesion and in the way, we value ALL people, regardless of gender, culture, faith, ability and ethnicity.

We believe that our times of collective worship will provide a good foundation upon which the children can build an understanding of treating others, as they want to be treated and valuing God's creation, sharing and living out Christian values as they journey through life.

### Definition of Collective Worship

Collective Worship is a time when the whole school, or groups within the school meet together in order to consider and reflect on common concerns, issues and interests. It offers all pupils an opportunity to worship through engaging in relevant, meaningful experiences and provides opportunities for the pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

### Aims of our Collective Worship

#### For the School:

Collective Worship contributes significantly to the ethos of our school and it is our aim that it is a time when the school community can:

- share common aims and values
- celebrate achievement and special times
- explore together the world in which we live
- develop a community spirit

#### For the Pupils:

We also intend that Collective Worship contributes to the development of the pupil as a 'whole' person by providing opportunities to:

- worship that which is considered worthy
- consider spiritual and moral issues
- explore their own beliefs
- develop their own spirituality

- reinforce positive attitudes
- participate and respond
- reflect on what it means to be human

### The Contribution of Collective Worship to aspects of the Curriculum

Collective Worship time is distinct from curriculum time. However, at St Stephen's School, Collective Worship will at times feature aspects of the curriculum, which will enhance the experiences of pupils by reflecting on the work done in classes. At times, Collective Worship will enrich class work through its consideration of subject matter from different perspectives. We will also celebrate our achievements and those of others as a reflection of our gifts.

The provision of opportunities for pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is in line with school policy which informs our practice. To ensure Collective Worship provides opportunities for spiritual, moral, social and cultural development it should address a wide variety of themes and topics, use diverse stimuli and resources and provide pupils with the opportunity to 'respond' on their own level.

### The Management of Collective Worship

Collective worship is planned, managed, monitored and evaluated by a team consisting of the Head, Deputy, and representatives from each key stage, involving a member of the Church community.

### The Organisation of Collective Worship

Collective Worship is organised to provide a variety of groupings and will take place in the school hall, or the classroom. Worship always begins with the children being invited to bring the symbols representing the Trinity up to the front of the hall. A variety of traditional and modern Christian music is played as the children enter and leave the hall. The Monday whole school worship is led by a member of the Church or the 'Open the book' drama team. It is broadly Bible based and is followed up by class worship on Wednesdays. Tuesdays is worship through Music and a celebration of our VIPs. Each week a child is chosen from each class who has been noticed living out our values in practice. Children get a certificate and their name recorded in a special book and on our school website and they get to wear a VIP tabard for the week.

Thursdays form our celebration of attainment and announcing which house has won the most points and the team captains get to decorate the school trophy with their house colour ribbons. On Thursday we also celebrate children living out our Christian values at lunchtime and they get to sit on the 'top table' on Fridays. Fridays is child led worship which is linked to our whole school Christian value. This is a follow up from class worship where children from each class share from their reflection book. Worship leaders meet weekly to plan, lead and evaluate Friday worship. Once every half term each class has an opportunity to lead worship class with parents attending.

Acts of worship will usually last for approximately 15-20 minutes, although it is recognised that this time will be shortened or lengthened when it is appropriate.

### Leadership

Every member of the school teaching staff and occasional visitors will be involved in leading acts of worship at some point in the school year.

### Planning Acts of Collective Worship

The content of all acts of Collective Worship will be considered carefully, to ensure relevance and suitability for the ages, aptitudes and backgrounds of all pupils. A yearly planning sheet lists agreed Christian values, special occasions and events, but will be flexible to allow the inclusion of current and topical issues and specifically the major Christian festivals where all children take part in these. Additionally the major Hindu and Muslim festivals are also celebrated through enrichment days.

Visitors will be welcome to lead Collective Worship from time to time and will be given guidance on acts of Collective Worship at St Stephen's School. Leaders from Faiths within the area will increase the pupils' awareness, promote respect and raise the esteem of the pupils who belong to these faiths.

In school we use a variety of resources for worship including The Lion Bible for children, Values for life, The Lion storyteller Bible, Roots and Fruits, Out of the Ark and other (online) religious/ secular stories to enhance the message and Christian value.

### The Act of Collective Worship

A variety of teaching and learning styles and active and interactive methods are appropriate in acts of Collective Worship. Any and all of the methods employed in the classroom can be used effectively in acts of Collective Worship. A variety of resources will also be used. Leaders will choose the style/method and resources which are appropriate to the content, the age, aptitude and the background of the pupils.

The content and process must be sufficiently stimulating in order to evoke a response in the individual. This may not be visual, but opportunity must be given to express this response through reflection and invitational prayer.

If announcements are to be given at the same time as an act of worship then they will be of a positive nature, which at times may enhance the act of worship itself.

### Withdrawal

Any parent who objects to their child attending an act or acts of Collective Worship may request that their child is withdrawn. Parents are encouraged to discuss this with the headteacher. Any pupil who is withdrawn from an act or acts of Collective Worship will be supervised during that time by a member of the school staff.