



STAVERTON
CHURCH OF ENGLAND
PRIMARY SCHOOL

Policy on Collective Worship

“A school without walls or ceilings.”

This policy is to be read in conjunction with the vision, values and distinct Christian character of the school. At the heart of our school is Jesus’ parable of the mustard seed where our principle values are explored:

Courage Kindness Respect Forgiveness Trust Hope.

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Record of reviews/amendments	April 2023-Ratified at FGB	
Written by:	Edward Powe and Debbie Moore (RE Co-ordinator)	
Headteacher	Edward Powe	
Chair of Governors	Jenny Smith	
Date of next review	April 2025	

Collective Worship

What is collective worship and why do we do it?

At Staverton CofE Primary School the children take part in a daily act of collective worship (also known as an assembly). As a church school, this is a requirement of the school to have a daily act of collective worship, but more importantly, it is a time within our busy school day, where we can come together and learn about important values for our lives. Collective worship teaches the children the importance of our Christian vision and values through stories, discussion and real-life examples. It also provides moments for children to be still, calm and reflective, allowing children to grow spiritually. Ultimately, we see the Parable of the Mustard Tree as a metaphor for our collective worship, where we all gather under the 'shade' of the life-giving tree.

Aims of collective worship

- Express praise and thanksgiving to God.
- Be still and reflect.
- Explore the big questions of life and respond to national events.
- Foster respect and deepen spiritual awareness.
- Reflect on the character of God and on the teachings of Christ.
- Affirm Christian values and attitudes.
- Share each other's joys and challenges.
- Celebrate special times in the Christian calendar.
- Allows children to engage with the planning and leadership of collective worship times.
- Encourage local partnerships with the local church community
- Appreciate worship in different ways: music, silence, story, prayer, reflection and other traditions of Anglican worship.

What does Collective Worship look like through the week?

- Monday – Whole school singing collective worship
- Tuesday – Headteacher's collective worship
- Wednesday – Teacher led collective worships separated into KSI and EYFS at 2pm and KS2 at 2.4-5pm
- Thursday – Visitor collective worship lead by either open the book or our local church leaders. This alternates between either KSI and EYFS or KS2. Any phase which is not in collective worship in the hall will have a collective worship in class.
- Friday – Whole school celebration assembly

During each collective worship, there will be reminders of our school's vision and values. Our collective worship times start with a gathering phrase of 'peace be with you', to which the children respond: 'and also with you'. In each collective worship, there is an element of reflection through stillness or prayer, a chance for the children to respond to the themes of the worship and a chance to engage spiritually through music. We also enjoy learning about our values through storytelling in collective worships, either with a picture book, orally told story or through drama. Every collective worship has an element of interaction with the children to engage them in worship.

Is collective worship compulsory for pupils and staff?

Staverton Primary School is a voluntary-controlled, Church of England school, maintained by the Wiltshire local education authority. We welcome admission from pupils from families with all faiths and none. Our intention is that our Christian vision and values are reflected in all that we do, in assembly, lessons, play and our relationships with each other. We do not offer any other religious assembly for other faiths.

It is important for families of pupils and for members of staff to recognize that daily worship will inform many aspects of life at the school. Therefore, whilst a pupil or a member of staff can withdraw from assembly, this will mean that an important part of the life of the school will be missing for them.

We understand that Christian beliefs and practices may be unfamiliar to a child or adult that does not either attend a church or has not been brought up in the Christian faith. School Collective Worship is not a church service or religious ceremony, those attending are simply asked to participate in what they feel comfortable with – this might be a prayer, a reading or a song. Many aspects are a celebration of the life of the school, achievements of pupils and news.

If you wish to withdraw your child from the religious aspect of assembly, please arrange to speak with the headteacher, who will be more than happy to discuss this with you. This will give you the opportunity to find out more about what would be involved and how this will work practically.

If a staff member would prefer not to participate in the religious aspects of assembly, they are asked to speak with the Headteacher.

