



St Edward's Church of England
Primary School

Collective Worship Policy

February 2018



Collective Worship Policy

1.0 Introduction

1.1 At St Edward's Church of England Primary School we believe that worship plays an essential part in the life of our school and contributes to:

- the spiritual, moral and cultural development of the child;
- other subjects of the curriculum such as music, English, drama and Religious Education;
- the Christian ethos of the school.

2.0 Aims

2.1 Through the act of worship we aim to:

- provide an opportunity in school to worship God;
- give children the opportunity to worship in church;
- enable children to consider spiritual and moral issues;
- enable children to explore their own beliefs;
- encourage participation and response;
- share worship with each other, parents and other members of the community;
- develop in children a sense of community spirit;
- promote a common ethos with shared values and to reinforce positive attitudes;
- teach children how to worship.

3. Collective Worship

3.1 We understand worship to be a very special act or occasion, the purpose of which is to show reverence to God. Collective worship involves all members of the school coming together at various times and in various places throughout the school day, to participate in an assembly, in which we worship God. We expect everyone to take an active part in the assembly.

3.2 In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act, which states that collective worship should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character', we base all our acts of worship on the teachings of Christ and the traditions of the Anglican Church.

3.3 The daily act of collective worship is seen as the focal point of the school day and teaching staff will normally be expected to attend. It is expected that collective

worship will be given a priority in the construction of the timetable to ensure that this is made possible.

4. Organisation of collective worship

4.1 We hold daily acts of collective worship in our school. Children and staff meet for worship in various groups – Early Years (Foundation Stage), Lower School (KS1), Upper School (KS2), Class groups and KS2 House groups (Eagles, Hawks, Ravens and Swifts). Owing to a lack of space we rarely meet as a whole school, except at the end of each term, when the last day of term ends with a whole school act of worship. Twice a term, all children in various groups attend worship at the Church of St Edward the Confessor, Romford.

4.2 We conduct acts of worship in a dignified and respectful way. We tell children that this is a time for calm reflection. We regard it as a special time and expect children to behave in an appropriate way. Children are taught how to prepare for worship before they enter the assembly hall (or other worship area), and we ask them to be quiet and thoughtful, to listen carefully to the teachings and to participate fully in prayers and hymns. Each class has guidelines and teachers give children the time to reflect and prepare for worship. We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music, pictures, the lighting of candles or other objects, that act as a focal point for the attention of the children.

4.3 Our acts of worship are led by the head teacher, deputy head teachers, other members of staff, by children, by the clergy of St. Edward's Church and by other visitors.

4.4 We take the themes of our acts of worship from the traditions of the Anglican faith and we reflect the festivals and events of the Christian calendar. Sometimes the themes of our acts of worship also reflect and build on topics that we teach as part of the school curriculum. We plan our acts of worship as part of a series of themes, well in advance of the day they take place, which include many of the following elements:

prayer reflection	reverence	affirmation
teaching	celebration	praise
symbols	readings	forgiveness
reconciliation	liturgy	music
silence	Holy Communion	fellowship
awe/wonder	ritual	thanksgiving
giving	Christian Values	global awareness
diversity		

4.5 On occasions our acts of worship reflect the achievements and learning of the children. We encourage the children to participate in acts of worship by showing their work to the other children and raising issues that they have discussed in their classes. Acts of worship offer an opportunity to acknowledge and reward children for their achievements, both in and out of school. They play an important part in reinforcing the ethos of the school. St. Edward's Church of England Primary School is a very successful school and we provide opportunities to celebrate children's successes in many of our acts of worship.

5.0 Right of withdrawal

5.1 We expect all children to attend our 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.

5.2 Should a parent request such permission, the head teacher would keep a record of all children withdrawn from collective worship

6.0 Monitoring

It is the role of the school governor with responsibility for religious education and collective worship, Father Mike Power, to monitor the policy and practice of collective worship. Father Mike Power liaises with the head teacher before reporting to the governors on religious education and collective worship.

7.0 Policy Review

We are aware of the need to review the school worship policy regularly so that we can take account of new initiatives, possible changes in legislation, or changes to the physical environment of the school. We shall review our policy during, or before, the spring term 2020.

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

Approved by Teaching and Learning Committee:

Chair of Teaching and Learning Committee

Date

Head Teacher

Date

Approved by Full Governing Body:

Chair of Governors

Date

Head Teacher

Date