



STOCKLAND C of E PRIMARY ACADEMY

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

Ref No	
Policy Written	2015
Policy Agreed	June 2017
Policy reviewed	May 2019
Panel Responsible	T&L Committee
Date Full Review	June 2021

Philosophy

Stockland Academy believes Collective Worship is an important part of the school day as it gives us the opportunity to come together as a community. It is attended by all students, staff and any visitors in school are very welcome to join in.

At Stockland Academy we recognise that Collective Worship is an important time to provide opportunities for the Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development of our pupils.

Aims

It is our aim that worship should: -

- contribute to the spiritual, social and moral cultural development of each child.
- support the social and emotional development of our pupils
- give expression to, and reaffirm and practise the values of the school community
- allow reflection and response to the fundamental questions of life and those things that are of eternal concern and value to human beings
- celebrate and give thanks for the achievements within the school, local and international community and occasions of significance, including festivals
- foster and enable a concern for the needs of others, a recognition of the vulnerability of self and others
- provide members of the school community with the opportunity to experience stillness and quiet

- provide members of the school community with the opportunity to respond to Christian language and symbolism and to understand something of the Anglican heritage of the school
- Teach the traditional Biblical stories and consider their meanings.
- provide members of the school community with the opportunity to experience a variety of forms of prayer and meditation
- to help students to begin to understand the nature and purpose of worship
- provide a foundation for a mature understanding and practice of worship in the future, especially through the understanding of the Bible.

Legal Status of Collective Worship

In 1988 the Education Reform Act requires that ‘all pupils in attendance at a maintained school shall on each day take part in an act of Collective Worship’. We seek to do our best to keep the spirit of this legislation seeking to provide as many high quality acts of worship as is practically possible.

To provide students with variety in their experience of acts of worship they may take the form of a whole school act of worship for all pupils or separate acts of worship for students in different age groups or school groups.

The responsibility for arranging the school worship in our academy rests on the Principal who has the responsibility of coordinating Collective Worship in the school.

All acts of worship are in accordance with the guidance issued in circular 1/94 which states that worship should be of a ‘wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character’. By broadly Christian in this school we mean that:

- Worship contains some elements that accord special status to Jesus, his teachings and actions e.g: The Sermon on the Mount
- Sharing with students the Christian belief that all Christians are called to continue Jesus’ work of love and compassion for their fellow human beings through the exploration of key Christian concepts such as love, trust, forgiveness, mercy, humility, courage and integrity, respect for life, value of the individual, justice, co-operation and service, honesty and truthfulness.

Acts of Collective Worship at Stockland Academy take into account the students’ ages, aptitudes and family backgrounds.

The Academy recognises that there is a difference between Acts of Collective Worship and the assembly of students. On some occasions assembly may precede or follow an Act of Collective Worship. When this happens the transition from the Act of Collective Worship to Assembly will be marked in some way, for example: the blowing out of the candle or reflecting an image on

the interactive whiteboard, moment of silence or reflection etc.

Rights of Withdrawal

At Stockland Academy we seek to be an inclusive community however, we respect the right of parents to withdraw their children for Collective Worship. This Academy expects that withdrawal will only be made following parental discussion with the Principal followed by written confirmation of the withdrawal.

All teachers, including the Principal, have the right of withdrawal from the Act of Collective Worship, but the Principal, should he wish to exercise the right, maintains statutory accountability for Acts of Collective Worship in Stockland Church of England Primary Academy.

This right of withdrawal doesn't extend to Assemblies.

Organisation

The children are actively involved in the Collective Worship. Contributions include: children who assist with the music and also welcome the children into the Collective Worship. . Children also regularly share the stories/activities and give the prayer at the end.

Classical music is played at the beginning and end of the Collective Worship as the children enter and leave, they are encouraged to use this time as a quiet reflection. During Collective Worship the children will sing an appropriate song, where possible it should relate to the theme.

Planning, Recording and Evaluation

Collective Worship will be treated like any other part of the curriculum when it comes to matters of planning, delivery, resourcing and evaluation.

The content and methodology of Collective Worship should be varied and there should be evidence of this in planning.

The Principal plans Collective Worship each half term and produces weekly plans using Roots and Fruits as the main thematic resource. Themes are followed around the values identified in order to match the church and school year eg Forgiveness at Easter time.

The pattern is flexible and on occasion it is recognised that teaching staff may feel that they need to respond to local or national events ie: Red Nose Day, flooding disasters etc.

The Vicar and the Foundation Governors share in the monitoring of Collective Worship in the Academy.

We seek to encourage pupils to voice their views on Collective Worship and to be a part of the evaluation process and as such it will also be an agenda item for the School Council.

Resources

Resources for the Collective Worship are kept in the Principal's office and in the school hall. The Principal and teaching staff may also utilise resources from the internet ie: Assemblies.org etc.

REVIEW OF THE POLICY

This policy is reviewed every two years by the Teaching & Learning Committee

Reviewed: Spring 2017

Next Review Date: Spring 2019