

Stock C of E Primary School



Collective Worship Policy

Date reviewed: April 2021

Date agreed by the Governing Body: 9th June 2021

Date of Next Review: Summer Term 2023

‘Developing a love of learning and life in a caring and Christian community’

Collective worship plays a central role at Stock Church of England Primary School; our aim is that collective worship will offer inspiration and provide opportunities for personal learning and reflection alongside shared experiences and celebration. It models the school's Christian ethos and values.

Aims and purpose of Collective Worship

The aims and purpose of collective worship at Stock C of E School are to:

- reflect the teachings of Jesus
- firm and strengthen Christian values with particular focus on the school Gospel Values: koinonia, forgiveness, perseverance, thankfulness, trust, justice and compassion.
- celebrate all that is good in the school community – gifts, talents and achievements
- provide an opportunity for children to become acquainted with people from the local and wider community, particularly the local church.
- offer comfort and support in difficult circumstances
- observing the cycle of the Church’s year and celebrating special times in the Christian calendar
- encourage respect for each other and those in our community.
- deepen spiritual awareness.
- provide an opportunity to develop tolerance and understanding of other faiths and beliefs, and to identify similarities to the Christian faith.
- provide an opportunity for children to become acquainted with people from the local and wider community, particularly the local church.
- encourage respect and care for God's creation by a positive attitude to both local and global environmental issues.
- give memorable and enjoyable experiences.

In our school, collective worship will make a contribution to

- **The Children’s Experience of the Anglican Tradition** e.g. special services held in the church, clergy coming into school to lead worship, the use of Anglican prayers, liturgy, songs, and the importance of the Bible as an aspiration for themes and stories. The use of Anglican sentences and responses e.g. Peace be with you/ and also with you.
- **Children’s Spiritual Nurture:** e.g. the opportunities for prayer and reflection and how these are developed through the school day and in class settings.
- **The social and emotional aspects of learning:** e.g. the foundation offered by Christian worship for social and emotional learning in the school.
- **Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Education,** e.g. the opportunities to share experiences from other cultures and religions, to hear about charity projects and overseas links, to recognise the impact a faith can have on a person’s life.

Organisation of Collective Worship

Collective worship can be like a breathing space in the school day. For everyone who participates, the time feels different. It’s when people in the school get together; the pace is slowed down; there’s time to think about what’s important in everyone’s lives and in the life of the school. There’s often laughter and celebration, sometimes sadness and tears; there are big questions to be asked and puzzling, perplexing and difficult situations to be explored about our lives and our world. This is a sanctuary in the hurly burly of school life and it’s precious time.

Collective Worship is a time when we explore, encounter and experience Christianity and aspects of others faiths.

Explore

- Human stories which raise questions about meaning and purpose in life
- Spiritual and moral issues
- The part played by religion in everyday life
- Ideas about God and the way people of faith relate to God
- The Bible and its teachings and other religious texts
- Christian values

Encounter

- Christianity as a contemporary, diverse and world-wide tradition
- Christianity in action
- People of faith
- Worship and prayer as part of the natural rhythm of the day
- The annual cycle of feasts and festivals of the Christian year
- The Bible as a source of inspiration

Experience

- Gathering together and building community: sharing achievements, disappointments, joys and sorrows
- What it means to be part of a community
- A sense of awe wonder, mystery and silence
- A community where faith is taken seriously
- Worship that is enjoyable, creative and imaginative

Our acts of worship reflect the achievements and learning of the pupils; we encourage pupils to participate in acts of worship and assemblies by showing their work to each other and raising issues that they have discussed in their classes. Acts of worship offer an opportunity to acknowledge and reward pupils for their achievements both in and out of school; they play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school, which is that all pupils are valued and all achievements are recognised.

The school welcomes incumbents of all local churches who lead collective worship, particularly Rev Dr Stephen Need, in addition to other visitors such as Billericay Schools Ministry and Diocesan advisors.

Legal Status of Collective Worship

The 1988 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'. The school complies with the legal requirements, as a church school the worship is predominantly of a Christian nature and must reflect the Christian Foundation of the school.

This requirement for distinctiveness in the content of collective worship in a Church school does not prohibit worship that is educational and appropriate for all involved. A former Archbishop of Canterbury, Robert Runcie, said collective worship should:

Nourish those of faith
Encourage those of other faiths
Challenge those who have no faith

Collective worship should recognise that the school community is made up of a collection of people from a variety of different backgrounds. In some parts of the Diocese of Chelmsford the cultural and religious mix is

more varied than others, reflecting the diversity of society as a whole, but in all schools there is likely to be a range of people, of faith and of no faith, who are served by the school.

The act of worship need not take place with the whole school together but can take place in classes or groups of children e.g. key stage groups.

At Stock C of E Primary School we participate in a daily act of collective worship which takes place in the school hall. If there is an event in the school and the hall is in use pupils will engage in a class assembly in their classroom on that day.

Equal Opportunities

In sharing, through collective worship, what is meaningful and significant in our lives, we affirm the equality of each individual, regardless of gender, religious belief, ethnicity or disability and ensure that acts of worship are appropriate for the pupils, taking into account their age, aptitude and family backgrounds.

Rights of Withdrawal

All pupils in attendance at a maintained school should take part in an act of collective worship every day unless the parent requests that the child be wholly or partly excused from attendance at the religious worship in the school.

It is made clear to prospective parents, when viewing the school that the act of worship is central to the life of the school. Stock School is a Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School where Christian values and principles underpin some aspects of the curriculum. The experience of daily worship by the whole school community is an important part of school life. In order to preserve the distinctiveness of this church school community, we encourage everyone to be involved in the religious education and collective worship. However, at Stock, we do respect the right of parents to withdraw their children from collective worship.

Parents who have concerns should address these with the head teacher, and if they still wish to withdraw their child provide written confirmation of withdrawal.

The school will provide suitable supervision for pupils withdrawn from acts of collective worship, however, no additional work is set or followed in this time. The Headteacher keeps a record of all pupils who are withdrawn from collective worship.

All teachers, including the head teacher, have the right of withdrawal from the act of collective worship, but the head teacher, should he or she wish exercise this right, maintains statutory accountability for acts of collective worship in Stock School.

Roles and responsibilities

The collective worship coordinator is the headteacher, Alina Clay, working in collaboration with the Deputy Head teacher, Steve Whyman, and the RE subject leader, Alison Price. They are involved in the planning and delivery of collective worship, including budget and training.

Monitoring and Evaluation

There is a programme of feedback from pupils using pupil perceptions once a term to assess the school's acts of worship.

The governing body have a responsibility to monitor the policy and practice of collective worship; this is carried out by governors who visit the school regularly to observe collective worship.