

Collaton St Mary Church of England Primary School



Acts of Collective Worship Policy

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1 AIMS AND PURPOSE

The aims and purpose of collective worship are:

- to provide an opportunity for the children to worship God;
- to enable children to consider spiritual and moral issues;
- to enable children to explore their own beliefs;
- to encourage participation and response;
- to develop in children a sense of community spirit;
- to promote a common ethos with shared values and to reinforce positive attitudes;
- to teach children how to worship.
- to support the school family to develop their understanding of life in all its fullness.

We also aim to:

- Develop in every child a knowledge of the immeasurable enormity of God's love for them (Ephesians 3:18)
- Develop in every child an understanding that God sees their heart and loves them even in their failings (1 Samuel 16:7)
- Develop an understanding in every child that God is always with them (Psalm 139, Matthew 28:20)
- Develop an understanding in every child that, because of the sacrifice Jesus made for them on the cross, they can approach God without fear (Hebrews 4:16)

2 ACTS OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

We understand worship to be a special act or occasion whose purpose is to show reverence to God. Collective worship involves all members of the school coming together and participating in an assembly.

We expect everyone to take an active part in the assembly.

In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act, which states that collective worship should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character', we normally base our assemblies on the teachings of Christ and traditions of the Christian Church. However, we conduct our assemblies in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs of all members of the school.

While the majority of acts of worship in our school are Christian, we also hold assemblies that reflect other religious traditions that are represented in the school and the wider community.

3 ORGANISATION OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

We hold a daily act of collective worship in our school. This takes the form of either a whole-school assembly or key-stage assembly.

We conduct assemblies in a dignified and respectful way. We tell children that assembly time is a period of calm reflection. We regard it as a special time and expect children to behave in an appropriate way. We ask them to be quiet and thoughtful and to listen carefully to the teachings and participate fully in prayer and hymns.

The Headteacher or other members of staff normally conduct assemblies, but sometimes local clergy or other representatives of local religious groups conduct them instead (e.g. Open the Book team). We also invite other guest speakers, such as representatives from Christian Aid and community groups such as the local police.

We take the themes of our assemblies from the traditions of the Christian faith and we often reflect the festivals and events of the Christian calendar. Sometimes the themes of our assemblies reflect and build on topics that we teach as part of the school curriculum. We plan our assemblies as part of a series of themes in advance of the day they take place.

Our assemblies reflect the achievements and learning of the children. We encourage the children to participate in assemblies by showing their work to the other children and raising issues that they have discussed in their classes. Assemblies offer an opportunity to acknowledge and reward children for their achievements both in and out of schools. They play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school, which is that all children are valued and all achievements are recognised. Collaton Church of England Primary School is a successful school and we shall celebrate the successes of all the children in assemblies.

Parents/carers are invited to attend our child lead worships and any other special assemblies. Governors and members of the Ethos Committee are invited to attend all school worships lead by both the school and our guests.

4 RIGHT OF WITHDRAWAL

We expect all children to attend assembly. However, any parent/carer 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.

The Headteacher keeps a record of all children who withdraw from collective worship.

5 MONITORING AND REVIEW

It is the role of a lead governor with responsibility for religious education and collective worship to monitor the policy and practice of collective worship. The governor concerned liaises with the Headteacher before reporting to the governors on religious education and collective worship.

This policy will be reviewed: Annually by the Ethos Committee