



Policy Document

Stone St. Mary's C of E Primary School

Collective Worship Policy

May 2024

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Caring, Growing, Shining Together



Diocese of
Rochester



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Academies Trust

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The daily act of Collective Worship at **Stone St. Mary's Church of England School** plays a central role in our life and work. It provides us with rich spiritual opportunities to reaffirm our vision, values, and ethos. These moments help to strengthen our sense of community, belonging and inclusiveness and to reinforce the respect and care we have for each other. Through Collective Worship we strive to develop curiosity through questioning and encourage all involved to explore and articulate spiritual and ethical issues. We make a significant contribution to the religious, spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of those present. We want all our school community to enjoy, reflect and act upon these experiences and Collective Worship provides a valuable vehicle for this.

Aims:

- to provide children with a range of opportunities to worship, reflect and develop spiritually.
- to acquaint children with the liturgical practices, language and teaching of the Christian faith as used in the Church of England
- to give children opportunities to reflect on Christian stories, events and festivals and how these might affect and support their lives;
- to teach respect for other faiths and religions
- to promote our shared vision and values which contribute to our common life together by celebrating individual achievement, school achievement and wider community achievement within the context of Collective Worship.

Collective Worship and Parents:

When a class or year group is involved in leading Collective Worship, parents are invited to attend.

We share with parents the importance of our Collective Worship programme in developing our school's vision, ethos and values and in providing a range of opportunities for children to consider important issues for life and living.

Parents do, however, have the right to withdraw their child(ren) from the daily act of Collective Worship. Parents who wish to consider withdrawing their child(ren) are asked to make an appointment with the Headteacher to discuss this. If a child is withdrawn from Collective Worship, they will be given an activity to complete and are reintegrated for any notices or presentations.

Leading Lights

One representative per class meet together to participate in elements of 'Enabling and Supporting Pupil Leaders in Collective Worship' which aims to develop leadership skills. They work alongside the class teacher to monitor and develop the use of class worship tables and assisting where appropriate in collective worship.

Collective Worship Organisation:

There are various groupings and meeting places for Collective Worship during the week (see attached weekly rota). We organise the programme around our Christian Values which help us to live out our vision. It is the responsibility of staff leading the act of Collective Worship to ensure that the content and form of delivery is accessible for all those present. Collective Worship leaders need to ensure that over time the following opportunities are provided:

- A set structure to the act of worship: liturgical greeting, liturgy of the Word (eg. Bible reading and talk), prayers, liturgical ending (eg. blessing, dismissal)
- Set prayers, eg. The Lord's Prayer, the Grace, blessings
- Set Liturgical responses eg. 'The Lord be with you' , R: 'And also with you'.
- Marking of appropriate festivals and other significant days in the Church Year;
- Christian symbols such as a cross and candle(s)
- Including the Eucharist so that children gain knowledge and understanding of this central act at the heart of Christian life.

Use of Visitors

The worship leader is responsible for liaising with any visitors who come into school to lead Collective Worship. Practical arrangements such as timing, age range of audience and appropriate content are agreed through discussion.

Health, Safety and Well-being

In Collective Worship we follow the school's health, safety and well-being policy. For example, appropriate care must be taken when using lighted candles and electrical equipment. In line with our 'Internet-safety' policy any internet resources used must be checked by the leader prior to their use in act of Collective Worship. In the event of fire all pupils must be familiar with exit routes from the halls and other areas of the school where Collective Worship takes place. Visitors are not left unaccompanied with children.

Equal Opportunities and Inclusion

Collective Worship will challenge stereotypes, misinformation and misconceptions about race, ethnicity, religion and gender. During Collective Worship, religions will be presented fairly and accurately and diversity and equality will be affirmed.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Collective Worship is monitored as part of the school's monitoring programme. As part of our pupil voice monitoring, children will be asked to comment on their experience of and response to Collective Worship regularly. All monitoring is regularly reviewed by the leadership team and governors in order to inform our future practices.



Stone St Mary's Acts of Worship

Monday	Led by Rector – linked to Christian Values
Tuesday	In Class Worship
Wednesday	Class Worship or Key Stage Worship – Singing
Thursday	Key Stage Worship led teachers – linked to Christian Values and topical events
Friday	Celebration Worship - Led by SLT

