

**Stanford in the Vale Primary School**  
**Collective Worship Policy**  
**Reviewed: February 2017 Next Review: February 2019**

### **Introduction**

The present school was established by trust deed in 1872 as a church school to serve the children of the locality. It is now a Church of England Controlled school, which means that RE is taught according to the Oxfordshire Agreed Syllabus but that the arrangements for the daily collective act of worship are the responsibility of the foundation governors in consultation with the head teacher.

### **Areas of Responsibility**

Here the programme and conduct of collective worship are entrusted to the staff and school council who decide themes and normally take the Collective Worship. The programme is regularly monitored by Curriculum and Communications governors.

### **Aims and Objectives**

We understand worship to be a special act or occasion whose purpose is to show reverence to God. We aim that through worship all children have opportunities to

- Worship God
- Consider spiritual and moral issues
- Promote a common ethos, with shared values and to reinforce positive attitudes
- Participate and respond
- Develop a sense of community spirit

### **Collective Worship Pattern**

Mon	14.45 - 15.05
Tues	14.45 - 15.05
Wed	14.45 – 15.05
Thurs	14.40 – 15.05
Fri	14.40 – 15.05

Collective Worship on Mondays is class led and follows a rota system. Family members of the relevant class are invited to share this occasion with us.

Tuesday Collective Worships are led by members of St Denys' following the 'Open the Book' programme.

Wednesday Collective Worships are led by Rev. Paul Eddy or in his absence a member of SLT.

Collective Worship on a Friday celebrates achievements for the week and birthdays.

Whole school Sharing Assembly, with family members takes place three times a year, once per term.

### **Participation**

All children are expected to attend Collective Worship, but the option to withdraw a child is available to parents. Collective Worship is led by staff on a rota basis. We welcome other visitors such as governors, community figures, musicians and church members.

All of the school community participate in Collective Worship by sitting together and all making contributions.

### **Content of Worship**

We conduct Collective Worship in a dignified and respectful way. We regard it as a special time and expect children to behave in an appropriate way. We ask them to listen carefully to the teachings and to participate fully in prayer and hymns. Year 6 children help to create an atmosphere of reverence and reflection by playing music on entry to the hall and lighting candles when everyone is ready to commence Collective Worship.

The lit candles, bibles and cross sit on a table at the front of the hall, covered in a table cloth to match the colour of the church season. They act as a visual focus and a physical reminder of the worship we are about to participate in. Classes are also encouraged to bring in objects linked to the theme of the Collective Worship to put on the table. Themes reflect the schools foundation and ethos. Themes follow the Church calendar (Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, Pentecost and Harvest) as well as themes relevant to the children's' experiences.

A gong is struck to call the school into Collective Worship and at the end children are called forward to blow out the candles.

Stories (from the Bible and diverse sources and appropriate texts from other religions) prayer, music and quiet reflection all play a part in our Collective Worship.

**Links with the church**

We make use of the parish church for key Christian events throughout the year as well as within our RE lessons. We invite the vicar to partake in our activities within the church.

**Evaluation**

The impact of Collective Worship is evaluated weekly by different year groups. These evaluations are added to our evaluation tree in the hall. Staff also evaluate their Collective Worship and attach to their plans. These are kept in the staff room. After consultation with class members, the School Council reports to the Collective Worship Co-ordinator their findings and thoughts for future themes.