



Stanford in the Vale CE Primary School Collective Worship Policy



Reviewed: January 2025
Next Review: January 2027

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 Pupil Parliament 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	14.40 – 15.05
Thurs	14.45 – 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 Worship is led by members of St Denys' following the 'Open the Book' programme.

Wednesday Collective Worship is led by staff and are a celebration of God and Christian Values through song.

Thursday Collective Worship is 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 candles are lit 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.



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Themes reflect the school's vision and values and follow the Church calendar (Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, Pentecost and Harvest). Themes are relevant to the children's' experiences.

A gong is struck to call the school to 'be still' ready for Collective Worship and at the end the candles are blown out.

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 Pupil Parliament. 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. Pupil Parliament report to the Collective Worship Co-ordinator their thoughts for future themes.