



Stanton Harcourt CE Primary School

Collective Worship Policy

Date agreed by Staff 13.03.18

Signed.....

Print name.....

Capacity.....

Date agreed by Governors 14.03.18

Signed.....

Print name.....

Capacity...Chair of Governors

Signed.....

Print name.....

Capacity Headteacher

Frequency of review: Every three years

Next date for review: March 2020



COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

Our acts of worship reflect the fact that we are a Church of England Voluntary Controlled school and are therefore linked to the Church Foundation of the school and may be “other than according to the Agreed Syllabus”.

Our acts of worship are broadly Christian in nature, but take account of the multi-faith society in which we live and opportunities this gives children for a wider outlook on life and faith.

We expect that all children will be present at acts of worship, but accept the parents right to withdraw their children. (see ***Withdrawal***)

We are also aware that some children may belong to other faiths and that we must respect their individual faiths, beliefs and stance.

Where pupils profess to have no faith we aim to present this as a statement of belief acknowledging that everyone has a set of values.

We believe in the importance of staff and pupils sharing together in worship in order to support the promotion of Christian values and the development of a whole school ethos to worship.

Our acts of worship are a daily occurrence, presented in a variety of formats.

We firmly believe that our regular visits to our local church constitute an act of worship within the present context of our village community and school.

Aims

- to enable pupils to explore a variety of forms of worship so that those with a religious commitment may have their experience of worship deepened and broadened and so that the uncommitted may begin to feel for themselves something of what it means for others to worship.
- to enable pupils to approach the “threshold” of worship by instilling in them a “worshipful attitude”, that is an attitude characterised by feelings such as

wonder, being uplifted, elation, deep appreciation, gratitude, respect and reverence.

- to enable pupils to use silence for stilling, reflection, contemplation, meditation and, if appropriate, prayer.
- to heighten pupils' awareness of questions relating to the ultimate mysteries of life, and of the beliefs held and commitments made by themselves and others in response to such questions.
- to make explicit and to celebrate what has meaning, value and purpose for the pupils as individuals for the school, and for the wider community.
- to develop a sense of community within the school, and of being part of a wider community.
- to celebrate achievements and special occasions in respect of individuals, the school and the wider community.
- to celebrate difference and diversity.
- to heighten aesthetic awareness and to enable pupils to appreciate the use of symbolism and religious language to express feelings and belief.
- to actively include pupils in the development and communication of worship themes through drama etc.
- to listen to pupils and seek their thoughts ideas and feedback

Guidelines

Planning – our programmes of worship for each term are developed jointly between Headteacher and Rector for whole school worship and are used to develop individual class worship.

Our planning is along the lines of the attached sheet taken from “Open the Door” (Oxford Diocesan Education Services). We use this for class and whole school worship – being a small village school our worship is naturally more intimate and class-like than it would be in a large school in the whole school situation.

We are also using the ‘Lighting the Candle’ material from Truro diocese to enable children to take responsibility for Worship.

Sources:

Visits and visitors
Staff and pupil experiences
Artefacts
Links with our village church
Diocesan and Christian Values in education meetings

Books:

The Bible	
Bright Ideas – Assemblies/Festivals	
Junior Assembly Book	
Dear God	Rowland Purton
Good Morning Everybody	Redvers Brandling
Contact Christian Assemblies for Primary Schools	Redvers Brandling
Assemblies for Primary Schools:	
Spring, Summer, Autumn	Margaret Cooling
Anthology for Assembly	
Cracking RE	
Values education	Neil Hawkes

Multi-faith

As a church school we are legally bound to reflect the traditions of the Anglican Church, based on its traditions and beliefs.

We are, however, aware that we live in a multicultural and multi-faith society and should, when the situation arises show respect and understanding for other faiths and beliefs and develop our acts of worship accordingly. The children should be encouraged to recognise the importance of differing faiths and religious principles in a supportive environment.

Withdrawal

The 1944 and 1988 Education Acts give parents the right to withdraw their children from acts of worship and we respect their right to do so.

Parents are welcome to discuss their concerns on this matter with the school before they make their decision.