

Collective Worship Policy



This Policy was reviewed on **June 2017**

Signed Chair of Governors **M Munro**

Signed Head Teacher **M Battersby**

Next Review Date **June 2020**

**St. Silas Church of England Primary School
Collective Worship Policy**

'Aim High: Dream Big'

This policy has been drawn up by the governors of the school in consultation with the head teacher, collective worship co-ordinator, incumbent and other members of staff.

St Silas Church of England is a Voluntary Aided Church of England Primary School. Collective Worship takes place every day for all pupils. As this is an aided school, members of staff are expected to attend the act of collective worship.

For our church school, collective worship is a highly valued part of the school day as it is the time when we gather together to affirm what is important to us, to our school and to our world. It provides an opportunity for pupils to worship God, whilst seeking to be relevant to, and inclusive, of all.

In acts of collective worship in our school it is recognised that in our school community, some members will come from families with a commitment to the Christian faith, others from families with a commitment to another faith and yet others will have no particular commitment to any tradition. Therefore the content and language of collective worship allows for different levels of response. It invites rather than coerces.

Acts of worship in our school will be predominantly and overtly Christian. However, as there are children from a variety of faiths and none, in addition to children from Christian homes, we do, from time to time, draw upon religious material from a variety of traditions when preparing collective worship. For example, in discussing the Muslim celebration of *Eid ul fitr*, it would be important to point out that this was a Muslim festival at the end of Ramadan and that Muslims would be celebrating the conclusion to the time of fasting. It would then be appropriate to make links with the feelings of thankfulness and to move onto the idea of Christian thanksgiving to God for all the good gifts.

At St Silas Church of England Primary School Collective Worship offer a space to all:

- to think about God
- to listen to God
- to praise God
- to wonder
- to reflect upon ourselves and our lives as seen as part of a bigger picture
- to receive a challenge to live differently
- to celebrate gifts and talents
- to rejoice in being unique and precious
- to explore personal belief
- to consider spiritual questions raised in the rest of the curriculum
- to learn about how values and how to apply them in our lives

Collective Worship usually takes place in the school hall at 8.50 am or in your child's classroom. Once every half term worship Year Groups take it in turn to lead worship in St Silas church. The head teacher and senior leaders usually lead worship. Occasionally the vicar from St Silas Church and other visitors lead worship. It follows the pattern here:

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
KS1	classroom	hall	classroom	hall	hall
KS2	hall	classroom	Hall	classroom	hall

Each half-term there is a theme for Collective Worship based on our school values. Those leading worship follow these themes. On occasions it is recognised that those leading worship may feel they need to respond to local, national or international events. Collective Worship should be planned carefully.

Within our collective worship we provide a wide variety of stimuli to help pupils to reflect upon and respond to the central theme. These include: story, PowerPoint, drama, poetry, puppets, music and praying. The children use response prayers such as: Peace be with you, And also with you or This is the day that God has made, Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

The governors hold overall responsibility for ensuring that the legal requirements for worship are met, but the head teacher has the statutory accountability for ensuring collective worship takes place and is responsible for collective worship in our school.

There is an active School Worship and Assembly Team (SWAT) made up of pupils and the deputy head teacher. This team evaluate worship on a regular

basis and make suggestions to improve worship from the pupils' perspective. Governors ensure that collective worship is evaluated on a regular basis.

Parents have the right to withdraw from collective worship. If a parent wishes to consider this option, the Head Teacher should be approached.

