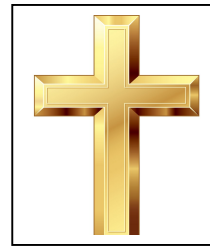


## **Stanion C. E.(Aided) Primary School**



### **Collective Worship Policy**

#### **Introduction**

This policy is a statement of the aims and principles for Collective Worship at Stanion C E Primary School.

The root of the ethos of Stanion Church of England Primary School is based on the two commandments in Saint Matthew's Gospel.

**'Love the lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.'**

**'Love your neighbour as yourself.'**

#### **Philosophy**

At Stanion C E (VA) Primary School, the legal framework within which we are bound (Education Reform Act 1988 and the 1994 Circular) and our Christian foundation, point to worship as an essential element within the ethos of our school. In our daily act of Collective Worship we provide a positive experience of Christian life and worship. It is seen as an important part of the whole school curriculum and as such an intentional learning experience.

It is a shared experience that allows for a variety of responses and provides an opportunity for those of any religious faith or none to focus and reflect on inspiring input and stimuli which allow the human spirit to respond with integrity. The school offers the opportunity to explore, reflect upon and respond to the mystery and meaning of the Christian faith.

#### **Responsibility**

The Collective Act of Worship in a Voluntary Aided School is the responsibility of the Head Teacher in partnership with the governing body. It is the Worship Co-ordinator's role to ensure that the policy is put into practice within the school, that all staff have access to it, to order and maintain appropriate resources and to evaluate worship at regular intervals.

#### **Aims of Collective Worship**

- To create a 'special' time within the school day when the community of the school can be strengthened and the spiritual, moral, cultural and mental development of the children can be developed.
- To provide a sense of occasion where beliefs, ideals, values and experiences are shared and their relevance is discussed in relation to everyday life.

- For children to be given the opportunity to reflect upon and respond to the nature of God through thought, moments of reflection, word and action.
- To celebrate the values and worth of this school and Christian community including the sharing of gifts and talents of all our pupils.
- To promote feelings of awe and wonder, love and compassion as revealed through Jesus.
- To help children develop respect and sensitivity to the beliefs and values of others, a recognition of the vulnerability of self and others.
- To follow the pattern of the Christian Year and reflect the traditions of the Church of England.

### **Organisation**

We hold a daily act of collective worship. This forms part of each assembly which can be a whole-school assembly, separate Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 assemblies or a class assembly. The assemblies are normally conducted by the headteacher and other members of staff. One service per month is led by the Priest in Charge of our local parish church. We also invite other visiting speakers such as the Christian School Assembly Link Team (CSALT), and the Salvation Army to deliver worship throughout the academic year. On a Tuesday morning, a staff member leads a Singing Celebration. Our Church Council play an active role in worship and are supported by Foundation Governors to plan and deliver worship at least once per half-term.

We conduct assemblies in a dignified and respectful way. We regard it as a special time, and expect children to be quiet and thoughtful, to listen carefully to the teachings, and to participate fully in prayer and hymns. We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music as the children come into and leave assembly. In school, the focus for worship is a cross and a candle which always burns during whole school assemblies. We also use other objects to focus the attention of the children. Worship is opened with the invitational sharing of The Lord's Prayer.

For special dates in the Christian calendar, for instance – Harvest, Easter and Christmas, the children lead the services either in the school hall or in the local church. Teachers and each class are involved in the planning and preparation, and the whole school attends, parents, governors and friends from the community are invited.

A variety of activities, using appropriate language and exploration e.g. singing, story telling, drama, poetry, music etc are provided in order to gain response from all present so that worship is an inclusive experience for all participating. Appropriate readings from the scriptures and prayers are introduced. Children are invited to reflect on our worship by thought, general discussion, silence and communal prayer.

Through our approach we hope to bring children to the threshold of worship from which their own understanding and desire to worship may grow. In addition to the daily act of worship, the children say a prayer before lunch and at other times during the day.

## **Content**

We have developed a range of themes through which Collective Worship takes place. Themes for each term are chosen and presented in a variety of ways. Key themes include Love, joy, forgiveness, justice and the value of all human life.

Contents include:

1. Celebration of all the major festivals of Christianity and the journey through the Church year.
2. Presentation of Bible stories.
3. Topical matters from the news or the locality.
4. Literature with implicit or explicit religious teaching.
5. Appreciation of the natural world, human activity and the festivals of other major world faiths.
6. Appreciation of the talents, achievements and work of ourselves and others.
7. Visitors who represent organisations who have a brief that is acceptable to the school.
8. Prayer in different forms – formal, pupil’s own, silence and extempore.
9. Use of music (as an introduction, conclusion, hymn singing and instrumental playing by members of the school), drama and poetry.
10. Appropriate artefacts and focal points. (Candle, cross, flowers etc.)
11. Participation by the children and staff.

## **Rights of Withdrawal**

Parents have the right (under the 1944 Education Act) to withdraw their child from Collective Worship but we hope that parents would discuss this fully with the Headteacher before finally deciding. As we are explicitly a Church of England School, the Act of Worship is central to our life as a school, which we hope parents will take into account. School staff are expected to attend.

## **Provision for Monitoring and Review**

This policy is monitored by the Governing Body and reviewed annually. Foundation Governors should attend worship for monitoring purposes and subsequently meet with the Worship Co-ordinator.

## **Inspection**

As a Voluntary Aided C of E School it is noted that the Foundation Governors have the right to select an appropriate inspection (Section 23 1997 Education Act).

This Policy will be reviewed annually.

The governing body agreed this policy on 25<sup>th</sup> March 2024

Policy Review Date – March 2025

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Headteacher  
Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Chair of Governors