

Collective Worship Policy

Swaffham Prior C of E Primary School



At Swaffham Prior we want all children to learn within a safe, and peaceful community. Through broad and balanced experiences, we inspire wonder, encourage perseverance and individual growth. Our Christian values underpin our peaceful school where we work in partnership with families to nurture the whole child and instil compassion towards others providing a basis for a hopeful future.



The School Collective Worship Policy reflects and reinforces the school's aims and ethos and will demonstrate the partnership between the conduct and content of school worship and the ethos of the whole school based on Christian values of wonder, hope, perseverance, peace, community and compassion.

At Swaffham Prior CE school we consider Collective worship to be a significant educational activity that both reflects and explores the schools distinctive Christian character and contributes to the academic achievement, personal development and well-being of all learners. Therefore, Collective Worship is planned:

- to be inspirational and inclusive. It should engage all learners and they should be able to talk about the impact it makes on their relationships and on life in the school
- will regularly include Biblical material and Christian teaching and this should explore and relate to the school's core Christian values
- will have a strong focus on God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit enabling all learners to embark on an understanding of the Trinity
- will help all learners to understand Anglican and other Christian traditions found in the UK and worldwide.
- will challenge all learners of all backgrounds to understand and embark on their own spiritual journey. They should understand the value of Prayer, Reflection Stillness
- will contribute significantly to pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development; by providing all learners with "something more than the obvious, something to wonder at, something to respond to"
- will be an opportunity to Celebrate and give thanks for achievements within the school, local and international community and occasions of significance, including festivals

Collective worship should be an experience that does not offend the integrity of the non-religious or those of different faith.

The positive educational outcomes of Collective Worship at Swaffham Prior CE School include opportunities for:

- the whole community to celebrate;
- sharing and experiencing differences;
- developing a culture of learning;
- building a sense of group identity;
- encouraging a sense of personal and social responsibility;
- a break from the busyness of life (for stillness and quiet);
- learning how to behave in a large social group;
- exploring feelings and emotions;
- learning how to perform in front of an audience;
- learning how to respond to a performance;
- making visible the school's leadership;
- developing inner awareness.

Legal Requirements

The law requires the Headteacher and Governing Body of every school to provide a daily act of Collective Worship which is in line with the schools Trust Deed and foundation. The School meets this requirement and is explained to all involved in the planning and delivery of acts of worship.

Withdrawal from Collective Worship

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from acts of worship. It is intended that consultation will take place before formal requests are made to withdraw from acts of worship with the Head teacher.

Planning a Collective Worship Programme

Specific time is set aside daily for Collective Worship. We recognize the importance of marking the act of collective as a special time by lighting a candle, using call and response greetings, asking children to reflect quietly as well as prayer, song and stories. We also make 'space for the spirit' by using 'Reflection Books' in some class worship times.

Each person leading worship is expected to plan his or her act of worship with the same degree of thoroughness as any other aspect of their teaching following the half term plan.

A worship-planning team meets once a term led by the worship co-ordinator. These meetings are an opportunity to review and evaluate the last terms Acts of Collective Worship and to plan themes for the next term.

The views of pupils about collective worship are sought through the Schools Council and the Worship Leaders. Pupils are encouraged to be involved in the planning leading and monitoring of Collective worship.

Chris Goodfellow, chair of governors has a role monitoring Collective worship.

There are a number of resources available to form the basis of collective worship planning.

Our Pattern of worship consists of:

- Monday – Whole School Assembly
- Tuesday – Whole School Singing Assembly
- Wednesday – Reverend Sue or other visitors lead worship
- Thursday – Class 'Big Question' worship
- Friday – Celebration Assembly

Class Big Questions

Each week pupils meet in classes for this act of worship. Pupils reflect on statements, thoughts or ideas linked to the worship theme. Pupils may also contribute ideas for reflection. A response may be made and added to the class reflection book. Pupils who believe in God are invited to reflect that, through these thoughts, God may be helping them to discover the most important directions and values for their lives.

Whole School celebration: Act of worship

Once a week the school gathers for this worship, in which achievements of pupils at the school are celebrated. Parents are invited. This worship will normally provide opportunities for spiritual development.

Visitors

Visitors should understand the educational aims of Collective Worship at the school and the need to avoid any proselytising. Attempts to persuade pupils to adopt a particular religious or non-religious belief are not appropriate. In general, the Headteacher is consulted before a visiting speaker is confirmed. Visitors should not speak about raising money for any particular

cause(s) without the prior permission of the Headteacher.

Community Involvement in Collective Worship

As well as staff leading collective worship, Reverend Sue, Reverend Eleanor and Richard Liddington are involved on a regular basis with the worship programme. Pupils are given the opportunity to lead or participate in leading worship too. There are also termly visits from Light and Life and GenR8 groups and other visitors are welcome to lead assemblies too e.g NSPCC or Dementia Awareness.