

Stamford Bridge Primary School

Collective Worship Policy



Policy agreed by staff	October 2017
Policy agreed by Governors	January 2018



Wolds Learning Partnership – A family of schools with shared values



Rationale

Stamford Bridge Primary School is required to provide daily collective worship for pupils (except for those who have been withdrawn by their parents). This is usually part of a daily assembly. The Headteacher is responsible for arranging the daily act of collective worship after consultation with the governing body. The daily act of collective worship must be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character, although its precise nature may vary according to the family background, ages and abilities of the pupils. At our school collective worship is considered to be an important part of the curriculum and every child's personal development; it provides an opportunity for children to reflect on a variety of themes and issues which underpin and guide positive relationships, community cohesion and a strong whole school ethos.

Aims

Through our daily act of collective worship we aim to give pupils the opportunity to:

- Worship
- Reflect on beliefs, traditions and values that are of a broadly Christian nature and on their own beliefs
- Develop a community spirit, a common ethos and shared values
- Consider spiritual and moral issues
- Participate in, and respond to, the worship
- Reflect on their own lives, feelings and experiences
- Experience different elements of worship e.g. celebration, reverence, sense of awe/wonder, praise, silence, ritual, symbolism.
- Celebrate success

An acceptable collective worship should do some or all of the following:

- Have a clear message/focus
- Stimulate pupils to think/meditate/reflect/to see everyday things in a new way
- Introduce pupils to things otherwise beyond their experience
- Inform the emotions and five senses as well as the mind
- Contain an element of **mindfulness**; some sort of prayer (*more than words*)/meditation/space for silence

If stories are to be used:

- The message behind the story needs to be clear.

Guidelines

The daily act of collective worship should include a variety of elements including:

- Reflection and mindfulness or a prayer

- Links to the school's curriculum priorities including UNICEF rights of the child
- A song
- Consideration of different viewpoints on central issues
- Music, singing, drama, dance
- Story, poetry, artefacts, visual arts
- Discussion
- Celebration of religious festivals
- Celebration of ways of helping others
- Pupils' own experiences
- Aspects of the school curriculum, pupils' work and school activities
- Celebration of the involvement and achievements of the school community
- Links with the local community
- Contributions from people from outside the school
- National and international events and issues

Class Assemblies

Please ensure the following when children are presenting their learning to the school:

- An introduction MUST make the purpose of the assembly clear
- Visual aids MUST be clear and used effectively
- Microphones may be used when children are presenting work
- Children MUST be well rehearsed and present with confidence

Parental rights

Parents can withdraw their child from all or part of the programme of collective worship. Parents do not need to explain their reasons for this, although they are encouraged to discuss the following with the Headteacher:

- The religious issues which the parent would object to their child being taught
- The practical implications of withdrawal
- The circumstances in which it would be reasonable to accommodate parents' wishes
- If parents require any advance notice of such issues in the future

The school remains responsible for the supervision of children withdrawn from collective worship unless the child is taking part in collective worship elsewhere.

Monitoring and evaluation

The Headteacher will report to the governing body on the themes covered in the daily acts of collective worship and how they complement the school's aims and values. At other times parents, staff and pupils may be consulted about the quality, effectiveness and impact of collective worship.