

Stanton St Quintin Primary School, Stanton St Quintin, Wiltshire. SN14 6DQ			
Name of Policy	Collective Acts of Worship Policy		
Last Reviewed	September 2015	Reviewed by	P&S
Approved by		Owned by	P&S
Next review	September 2018		

The Legal status of Collective Act of Worship

- In accordance with the Education Reform Act 1988, there will be collective Act of Worship daily at Stanton St Quintin Primary School.
- The majority of collective Acts of Worship each term will be “wholly of mainly of a broadly Christian character”, this is reflecting the “broad traditions of Christian belief” but they will be non-denominational.
- When considering the content of collective Acts of Worship, consideration will be given to the children’s ages, aptitudes and family backgrounds.
- Each collective Act of Worship includes a period of reflection.
- It is recognised that parents have the right to withdraw their child from the collective Act of Worship, and that the teachers also have the right to withdraw.

Statement of Aims

- The key aims of the school are published in the school’s prospectus. The following aims particularly relate to Collective Worship:
 - To respect and care for others within the school and the wider community
 - Seek to preserve the friendly, child-centred nature of the school
 - To respect all members of the school equally regardless of race, gender, disability or belief
 - Live in harmony with each other respecting the rules of society
 - To maintain a happy, fun-loving environment for the children to learn in
 - To provide a broad and balanced curriculum that caters for each child’s spiritual, intellectual, physical and moral development supported by a daily act of worship of a broadly Christian nature
 - To initiate opportunities for children to experience awe and wonder.
- We also aim to make a collective Act of Worship relevant to every day life
- Help children to become more sensitive to the wonders and mysteries of the world around them
- Help children to reflect on their own existence and the puzzling question which life poses
- Enable children to encounter commitment to particular leaders’ beliefs and causes
- Help children appreciate that people differ, and should be approached in a spirit of openness whatever their beliefs or culture
- Help children to develop a sense of community and an understanding of its importance
- Encourage children to encounter various kinds of language and symbols, and to express their own feelings through them

General Principles

- The daily Act of Worship occurs three times a week as a whole school assembly, once as a separate Key Stage/class assembly and once as a whole school hymn practice.
- Children are encourage to take part in assemblies on a class and individual basis
- Assemblies are led by the Head Teacher, class teachers or invited guests

- The SEAL themes may be used as a basis for assemblies.
- Special days are celebrated, e.g. Saints Days, Commonwealth Day, Easter, Christmas
- Assemblies usually include one or more of the following
 - hymn/song
 - story
 - prayer/period of reflection
- Assemblies take place in the school hall. Key Stage/class assemblies take place in classrooms
- The school visits St Giles Church for acts of worship, e.g. at Harvest, Christmas and Easter
- Please refer to current timetable for pattern of assemblies through the week
- NB – on Fridays the whole school assembly may be a class assembly, to which parents, grandparents, friends and ‘all’ are invited – even if it is a bit of a squeeze!

Responsibilities for Worship

- The Head Teacher, after consultation with the Governing Body, will ensure that the arrangements for the collective Act of Worship are carried out.

The Right to Withdraw

- The governors of Stanton St Quintin Primary School recognise parents’ right to withdraw their children from daily Acts of Collective Worship. Parents are invited to contact the Head Teacher if they wish to withdraw their child, so that the matter may be discussed and suitable arrangements made.

Resources

- There is a wide selection of assembly and prayer books, tapes, videos, slides and other books and artifacts in the school. Please refer to the RE subject leader for location and availability.

Records

- A brief record of the Act of Worship is kept. The following details are to be included:
 - theme
 - date
 - groupings, e.g. whole school KS1, KS2
 - content
 - leader
 - hymns/songs sung
 - music played while the children enter and leave the hall.
- NB. The hymns/songs may be selected by the Head Teacher, the adult leading the assembly to fit the theme for the week or by the children who organize assembly for that week.

This policy is aligned with the principles set out in the school’s Child Protection policy and should not contradict these principles.