



Stretton Sugwas Academy

Collective Worship Policy

Reviewed: Spring 2017

Mr B Ford

Introduction

The Collective Worship Policy at Stretton Sugwas Church of England Academy pays due regard to statutory requirements, and has taken account of the guidance offered by Herefordshire Local Authority through its SACRE. This Policy is consistent with the philosophy and aims of the school as expressed in the school prospectus.

As a church school in Britain, Stretton Sugwas is committed to providing a nurturing Christian environment for children of all faiths or none.

The school's provision of collective worship is underpinned by the teaching of the Imaginor Christian Values alongside the four core British Values.

Definition of Collective Worship

Legally, collective worship should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character'. At Stretton Sugwas, collective worship is conducted in a manner that is sensitive and respectful to the individual faith (or non-faith) and beliefs of all members of the school.

Collective Worship is seen as a time when the whole school, or groups within the school, meet together in order to consider and reflect on common concerns, issues and interests. It offers all pupils an opportunity to worship through engaging in relevant, meaningful experiences and provides opportunities for the pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

Acts of collective worship are not consigned to daily whole-school events in the hall as classes will each have their own additional class-based collective worship routines.

Aims of Collective Worship

For the School:

Collective Worship contributes significantly to the ethos of Stretton Sugwas Church of England Academy and it is the school's aim that it is a time when the school community can:

- share common aims and values
- celebrate achievement and special times
- explore together the world in which we live
- develop a community spirit
- share moments of awe and wonder
- promote good behavior and citizenship

For the Pupils:

We also intend that Collective Worship contributes to the development of the pupil as a 'whole' person by providing opportunities to:

- worship that which is considered worthy
- consider spiritual and moral issues
- explore their own beliefs
- develop their own spirituality
- reinforce positive attitudes
- participate and respond
- reflect on what it means to be human
- find a sense of belonging and identity
- develop their awareness of what it means to be British
- listen and learn from others

The Contribution of Collective Worship to aspects of the Curriculum

Collective Worship time is distinct from curriculum time. However, at Stretton Sugwas C o E Academy, Collective Worship will at times feature aspects of the curriculum, which will enhance the experiences of pupils by reflecting on the work done in classes. At times, Collective Worship will enrich classwork through its consideration of subject matter from different perspectives.

The provision of opportunities for pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is in-line with school policy which informs our practice. To ensure Collective Worship provides opportunities for spiritual, moral, social and cultural development it should address a wide variety of themes and topics, use diverse stimuli and resources and provide pupils with the opportunity to 'respond' on their own level.

The Management of Collective Worship

The Religious Education Co-ordinator, headteacher, deputy head and class teachers play a role in ensuring Collective Worship is effective. Each is responsible for planning, monitoring and evaluating acts of Collective Worship.

The RE co-ordinator and headteacher work together to ensure that acts of collective worship promote the values that underpin the school's ethos as well as SMSC development.

British Values

Collective Worship is used to promote British Values at Stretton Sugwas Church of England Academy..

Even though Stretton Sugwas is a Church of England school, staff is aware of the moral responsibility to provide a loving, open-minded and balanced environment in which any faith may grow, depending on the child.

Extremism from any religion or belief system is not tolerated as these contradict the British Values and Christian Values to which the school adheres.

The Organisation of Collective Worship

Collective Worship is organised to provide a variety of groupings and will take place in the school hall, outside, or the classroom.

Acts of worship will usually last for approximately 15 minutes, although it is recognized that this time will be shortened or lengthened when it is appropriate.

Groupings include:

- Whole school
- KS1 and Reception
- KS2
- Phase 1
- Phase 2

Leadership

Every member of the school staff and occasional visitors will be involved in leading acts of worship at some point in the school year.

Planning Acts of Collective Worship

The content of all acts of Collective Worship will be considered carefully, to ensure relevance and suitability for the ages, aptitudes and backgrounds of all pupils.

During Collective Worship, a different Christian value is explored each half term in addition to special occasions, events and topical issues.

Visitors will be welcome to lead Collective Worship on a regular basis and will be given guidance on acts of Collective Worship at Stretton Sugwas Church of England Academy. Regular visitors include Reverend Penny Littlewood and the current Padre from the nearby camp.

Leaders from faiths within the area will increase the pupils' awareness, promote respect and raise the esteem of the pupils who belong to these faiths.

Children are given the responsibility to lead acts of worship as well as special services at special Christian festivals throughout the year.

The Act of Collective Worship

A variety of teaching and learning styles and active and interactive methods are appropriate in acts of Collective Worship. Any and all of the methods employed in the classroom can be used effectively in acts of Collective Worship. A variety of resources will also be used. Leaders will choose the style/method and resources which are appropriate to the content, the age, aptitude and the background of the pupils.

The content and process must be sufficiently stimulating in order to evoke a response in the individual. This may not be visual, but opportunity must be given to express this response through reflection and prayer.

If announcements are to be given at the same time as an act of worship then they will be of a positive nature, which at times may enhance the act of worship itself. Announcements will be made preceding the act of worship and a clearly defined break between them and the act of worship will be made.

Withdrawal

Any parent who objects to their child attending an act or acts of Collective Worship may request that their child is withdrawn.

Parents are encouraged to discuss this with the headteacher. Any pupil who is withdrawn from an act or acts of Collective Worship will be supervised during that time by a member of the school staff.

As parents' objections will always be respected, it is expected that children will be respectful and tolerant of the beliefs of others.

Complaints or Concerns

Any complaints or concerns regarding the provision of collective worship at Stretton Sugwas Church of England Academy can be directed to the headteacher.