

“Bee” long  
“Bee” lieve  
“Bee” have



**Each bee plays a part in the hive**

*Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ.*

*1 Corinthians 12: 12-31*



**Stretton Sugwas Church of England Academy**

# **Collective Worship Policy**



**Reviewed: Autumn 2023  
Mr B Ford and WOW Team Pupils**

## Introduction: Our Vision

*“Each bee plays a part in the hive.”*

At Stretton Sugwas Church of England Academy, our Christian ethos is built upon the theme of the Body of Christ, which teaches us that we are all an important part of a team, have a unique role to play and must work together to help others. As a result, we encourage everyone in the school community to **belong** to a team, **believe** in themselves and **behave** in a compassionate way.

Collective worship is key to us communicating our vision to pupils and allowing them opportunities to reflect on what it means to them.

### What Do We Mean By 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. We are a church school, not a faith school. Through our own distinctive Christian ethos, we encourage pupils to question, challenging them to develop their own beliefs as well as respecting different viewpoints.

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, such as singing, discussion and reflection-including prayer, are not consigned to daily whole-school events in the hall as classes will each have their own additional class-based collective worship routines.

### ✳ “Bee”long: Who Is Collective Worship For?

Collective Worship is for everyone. As a church school in Britain, Stretton Sugwas is committed to providing a nurturing and inclusive environment for children of all faiths or none, which is rooted in its own Christian vision as outlined in the introduction.

This policy pays due regard to statutory requirements, and has taken account of the guidance offered by Herefordshire Local Authority through its SACRE. The school’s provision of collective worship is underpinned by the teaching of the *Imaginar* Christian Values alongside the four core British Values.

Stretton Sugwas is a Church of England school, committed to an inclusive approach. All staff members are made 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.

### **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, in order that an alternative plan for the child's SMSC development can be discussed. 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' and children's objections will always be respected, it is expected that children will be respectful and tolerant of the beliefs of others.

### **🐝 "Bee"lieve: How Do We Lead Collective Worship?**

#### **The Contribution of Collective Worship to aspects of the Curriculum**

Collective Worship time is distinctively different to 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 and vice versa. 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, Executive Headteacher, Head of School and class teachers play a role in ensuring Collective Worship is diverse, appropriately challenging, enriching and effective. Each is responsible for planning, monitoring and evaluating acts of Collective Worship.

The SLT work together to ensure that acts of collective worship promote the values that underpin the school's ethos as well as SMSC development.

#### **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 recognised that this time will be shortened or lengthened when it is appropriate.

Groupings include:

- Whole school
- EYFS
- KS1
- KS2
- Phase 1
- Phase 2

## **Leadership**

Every member of the school staff, occasional visitors as well as the pupils themselves 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 Dr Phill Brown 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.

### ♥ **“Bee”have: What Behaviours and Attitudes Can Promote Collective Worship?**

We firmly believe that Collective Worship is essential in helping our pupils to feel a sense of belonging and identity, develop an appreciation for their abilities and the skills of others, as well as allowing children the chances to reflect on how to action their reflections to effect positive change in their own lives.

Leading by Example- The staff and governors at the school will:

- Reinforce the aims and values of the school’s vision
- Explore with the children the world in which we live
- Develop a strong community spirit
- Celebrate achievement and special times
- Share moments of awe and wonder
- Promote good behaviour and citizenship.

WOW Team and Pupil Voice: What Will The Pupils Do?

- Create a peaceful and calm hall for assemblies
- Welcome all people and make them feel part of the team
- Share opinions in a kind way and listen and learn from others
- Explore all different beliefs and show respect to everyone who is different
- Develop own beliefs and show others how to think about deep things
- Join in and respond to visitors and questions
- Reflect and write down prayers or thoughts
- Use the outdoor spaces in school to reflect as well
- Think about what it means to be British or a Stretton pupil

Team Effort: What Can Parents/Carers Do?

- Promote open-mindedness in the home setting
- Encourage children to talk about their opinions
- Give children opportunities to share what they have learned in school
- Challenge children to reflect on what they have learned
- Support events and acts of Collective Worship where possible
- Communicate with school if there are any difficult questions that the children have.

### **Complaints or Concerns**

Any complaints or concerns regarding the Collective Worship provision at Stretton Sugwas Church of England Academy can be directed to the Headteacher, or in extreme cases, the Chair of Governors. Contact details can be found on the school website.

We are a listening school.