



Silverdale St John's CE Primary School

Collective Worship Policy

Purpose

The aims and purpose of collective worship are:

- to provide an opportunity for the children to worship God;
- to enable children to consider spiritual and moral issues;
- to enable children to explore their own beliefs;
- to encourage participation and response;
- to develop in children a sense of community spirit;
- to promote a common ethos with shared values and to reinforce positive attitudes;
- to teach children how to worship.

Collective Worship

We understand worship to be a special act or occasion whose purpose is to show reverence to God. Collective worship involves all members of the school coming together and participating in an assembly. We expect everyone to take an active part in the assembly. We regularly encourage the children to plan and lead worship especially for important times in the Church year e.g. Lent, Easter, Advent, etc.

In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act, which states that collective worship should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character', we normally base our worship on the teachings of Christ and traditions of the Christian Church. However, we conduct our worship in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs of all members of the school.

Organisation

We hold a daily act of collective worship in our school. This forms part of each assembly, which is normally a whole-school assembly, occasionally we also hold separate class assemblies.

We conduct worship in a dignified and respectful way. We tell children that assembly time is a period of calm reflection. We regard it as a special time and expect children to behave in an appropriate way. We ask them to be quiet and thoughtful and to listen carefully to the teachings and participate fully in prayer and hymns. We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music and sometimes candles or other objects that act as a focal point for the attention of the children.

The headteacher conducts the sessions on Monday and Friday, a member of staff leads worship in song or in assembly on Tuesdays and Thursdays and each Wednesday, the Vicar of St John's Church leads the worship. Sometimes local clergy or other representatives of local religious groups conduct them instead.

We take the themes of our worship from the Core Christian Values that underpin our school ethos. We also weave the traditions of the Christian faith into a year's planning of worship, providing opportunity to reflect on the festivals and events of the Christian calendar. Sometimes the themes of our worship build on topics that we teach as part of the school curriculum. We plan our worship as part of a series of themes well in advance of the day they take place.

On Friday our worship reflects the achievements and learning of the children. We encourage the children to participate in worship by showing their work to the other children and celebrating rewards and achievements that they have earned or made. Regularly, we also award special 'Values Awards' to individual children or groups who have shown that they can put a particular Christian Value into practise in school.

Worship offers an opportunity to acknowledge and reward children for their achievements both in and out of schools. They play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school, which is that all children are valued and all achievements are recognised. **Silverdale St John's CE School** is a successful school and we celebrate the successes of all the children in worship.

Parents are welcome to attend, as this promotes the community spirit of the school and is a practical demonstration of the way the home and the school work together to support the achievements of our children.

We welcome governors' attendance at our worship at any time.

Right of Withdrawal

We expect all children to attend worship. However, any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from attending religious worship and the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during the period concerned. Parents do not have to explain or give reasons for this. This complies with the 1944 Education Act and was restated in the 1988 Education Reform Act.

The headteacher keeps a record of all children who withdraw from collective worship.

Monitoring

It is the role of the Head Teacher together with a designated school governor to monitor the policy and practice of collective worship. The governor concerned liaises with the headteacher before reporting to the governors on collective worship.

Date Reviewed: Autumn 2015

Date of next review: Autumn 2017