

St Andrew's Church of England(VA) Primary School, Bath

Collective Worship Policy

1 Aims and purpose

1.1 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.

2 Collective worship

2.1 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.

2.2 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 assemblies on the teachings of Christ and traditions of the Christian Church. However, we conduct our assemblies in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs of all members of the school.

2.3 While the majority of acts of worship in our school are Christian, we also hold assemblies that reflect other religious traditions that are represented in the school and the wider community.

3 Organisation of collective worship

3.1 We hold an act of collective worship in our school on 4 days a week; on the 5th day we celebrate successes with an accompanying act of worship, often led by members of the wider Christian community. Most assemblies are for the whole school, although sometimes we also hold separate infant and junior assemblies. Class collective worship takes place once each week.

3.2 We conduct assemblies 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. We give them the opportunity to 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.

3.3 The headteacher or other members of staff normally conduct assemblies, but once a week members of St Swithin's, and sometimes other representatives of local religious groups, conduct them instead. Once every term we have a

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celebration service at St Swithin's Church and invite parents and the community.

- 3.4** Once a week, our celebration assemblies reflect the achievements and learning of the children. We encourage the children to participate in assemblies by showing their work to the other children and raising issues that they have discussed in their classes. Assemblies offer an opportunity to acknowledge and reward children for their achievements both in and out of school. In this way we promote the ethos of the school, which is that all children are valued and all achievements are recognised.
- 3.5** We invite parents to assembly on a weekly basis and we encourage them to attend, as this promotes the community spirit of the school. This is a practical demonstration of the way the home and the school work together to support the achievements of our children.
- 3.6** We take themes for our assemblies from the practices and traditions of ~Christian faith. Assemblies often make reference to the events and festivals of the Christian Calendar. Sometimes assemblies build on topics that we teach as part of the school curriculum and include promotion of our values. Individual assemblies are planned around the overall theme chosen for each term.
- 3.7** We welcome governors' attendance at our assemblies at any time.

4 Right of withdrawal

- 4.1** We expect all children to attend assembly. 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.
- 4.2** The Headteacher keeps a record of all children who withdraw from collective worship.

5 Monitoring and review

- 5.1** It is the role of a named school governor (Sarah ~Sheppard, Foundation Governor) with responsibility for religious education and collective worship to monitor the policy and practice of collective worship. The governor concerned liaises with the headteacher before reporting to the governors on religious education and collective worship.

Signed:

Date: January 2017
To be reviewed January 2021