



Stone

Church of England Combined School

Building stepping stones to success



Design adapted from the children of Stone C of E School

Stone CE Combined School Collective Worship Policy

Introduction

Worship within the context of Stone Church of England School should be the central focus for the ethos of the school. It is the means by which Christian values and principles are reflected and affirmed. It provides an opportunity for the spirituality of children to be expressed. It is where our School Values and Skills for Life are introduced and reinforced.

Act of Worship

This is the place where the wide spectrum of aspiration and commitment is valued and celebrated, but must always be in the language that pupils understand based around, but not restricted to, our School Values and Skills for Life themes.

Whilst school worship should reflect its fundamental Anglican foundation, nonetheless this should be celebrated in a way that does not impinge on the integrity of particular pupils or other faiths.

There needs to be a commitment by the school for diversity of worship not limited simply to Christian prayer:

- School Values
- Skills for Life
- Understanding of our Anglican heritage
- Use of hymns, song, stories and meditation/ reflection
- Special services at important times in the Church's liturgical calendar
- Embracing a sense of Christian community.
- A dialogue with and an understanding of other faiths.
- A simple liturgical structure using the 'window/ mirror/ door' basis, so that each session of collective worship is structured in a similar way.

"I can do all things through Him who strengthens me" Philippians 4:3



Whilst the act of collective worship would normally take place on school premises, it is desirable for appropriate arrangements to be made for this worship to take place elsewhere on special occasions. This is important in particular in emphasising important occasions within the Christian cycle. These include a Harvest festival, Christingle Service and an Easter Service.

Regard should be given to the needs of children who have been withdrawn from collective worship by parents if they have significantly different religious or cultural backgrounds.

Collective Worship Timetable

A half-termly plan is drawn up to provide information on the topics for each session of collective worship.

Each week, the opportunities for collective worship include:

- Open the Book assembly – organised and led by members of the local Christian parishes.
- Singing assembly /half-termly School Values assembly
- Skills for Life assembly
- Class assembly
- Celebration assembly

Visitors

Representatives from the local churches deliver assemblies on a weekly basis.

The local vicar comes into school on a regular basis to deliver assemblies on important themes such as Remembrance Day, Advent, Lent and Pentecost.

Our School Values and Collective Worship

The School Values of community, perseverance, honesty, compassion, respect and responsibility are introduced in an assembly in the first week of each half term. They are linked with a bible story which highlights the importance of that particular value. These values are also referred to throughout the appropriate half term in class, singing assemblies and celebration assemblies.

Our Skills for Life and Collective Worship

The School's Skills for Life (resilience, self-awareness, meta-learning, self-belief, motivation, organisational skills, questioning, communication, risk-taking, open-mindedness, empathy, leadership, collaboration, independence, asking for help, reflection, taking feedback, applying knowledge, analysing, evaluating and flexibility) are introduced in collective worship each week with inspirational stories from different cultures and backgrounds. These skills for life are then referred to, and reinforced, in class.

The Law relating to Worship

On each school day all children present at the school must take part in an act of collective worship. This may be as a single act of worship for all pupils together, or separate acts for different age groups or other school groups (Section 6 Education Reform Act 1988).

To constitute worship the collective worship in school must in some sense reflect something special or separate from ordinary school activities. Some non-Christian elements within the collective worship are permitted so long as these do not deprive it of its broadly Christian character and that this character will not be lost by the inclusion of elements common to Christianity and to one or more religions. Most acts of Christian worship must of necessity contain some elements which can be related specifically to the traditions of Christian belief and which accords some special status to the person of Jesus Christ (R-v-Secretary of State for Education ex p R and D 1993, 1994 ELR 495 and Religious Education and Collective Worship 119 DFE Circular 1/94).

Governors and the LEA are responsible for ensuring the requirements for collective worship are carried out (Section 10 1a ERA 1988). The responsibility for making the necessary arrangements for the act of collective worship rests with the Head teacher after consultation with the School Governing Body (Section 6(3) ERA 1988).

Collective worship should be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character in that it should reflect the broad traditions of Christian belief without being distinctive of any particular Christian denomination (Section 7 (1) ERA 1988). Nevertheless, from time to time acts of collective worship do not have to comply with the above requirement provided most of them do and this allows greater flexibility in relation to the type of worship available.

Parents have the right to withdraw pupils from acts of collective worship without having to give reasons (Section 9 (3) ERA 1988).