

Silverstone CE Primary School

Collective Worship Policy

Our Vision

Where we Learn Together, Grow Together, Achieve Together, knowing that Jesus said:

"I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit." John 15:5

At Silverstone CE Primary we aim to nurture the talents and aspirations of our school community, developing the qualities of self-confidence, responsibility, compassion, determination to enable everyone to be the best they can be and to flourish in an ever-changing world.

Our Values

Our Christian Values are based on the teachings of Jesus. They are our main drivers to achieve our vision. Our values help guide us all in how we behave and how we approach challenges and opportunities and how we live wisely in today's world:

1. Hope
2. Trust
3. Love
4. Respect
5. Forgiveness
6. Resilience
7. Compassion
8. Curiosity

Rationale

At Silverstone CE Primary, we believe that Collective Worship is fundamental in supporting the whole school community to grow spiritually. We provide an opportunity for pupils and staff to worship in contemporary and traditional Christian styles, which is consistent with the beliefs and practices of the Church of England. The Trust understands worship to be a special act or occasion, the purpose of which is to show reverence to God.

Collective worship involves pupils and staff coming together and participating in a daily gathering. In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act which states that collective worship should be "wholly or broadly of a Christian character", collective worship in our academies is based on the teachings of Christ and traditions of the Christian Church. However, we aim to conduct our collective worship in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs of all members of the academy.

Collective worship contributes significantly to the ethos of the Trust and it is our aim that it is a time when the academy community can:

- Share common aims and values;
- Celebrate achievement and special times;

- Explore together the world in which we live;
- Develop a community spirit.

Aims for Collective Worship

Our Collective Worship is inclusive, invitational and inspiring and an expression of our Christian Vision. Through prayer, stillness, worship and reflection, we learn together, “to know God better, love others and reach out with the good news of Jesus.” Collective Worship and RE help us to appreciate the relevance of all faiths in today’s world and to be familiar with the Christian teachings of Jesus, the Bible and the Holy Trinity.

Our Collective Worship is a daily opportunity to:

- contribute to the spiritual, moral and cultural development of each child
- support the social and emotional development of all pupils
- celebrate and give thanks for achievements within the school, local and international communities and recognise occasions of significance, including festivals
- provide members of the school community with the opportunity to experience stillness, quiet and have opportunities for reflection
- give pupils opportunities to respond to Christian language and symbolism
- give pupils the opportunity to engage with members of St Michael’s Church and Silverstone Methodist Church and visit the church on a regular basis
- provide a sense of occasion
- enable pupils and adults to explore their own beliefs

Practicalities of Organisation

Day	Collective Worship
Monday	Whole School Worship – led by Headteacher
Tuesday	Class Worship (whole school when we have visitors)
Wednesday	Whole School – singing worship
Thursday	Class Worship
Friday	Whole School Worship - celebration worship, Parents invited to attend

Collective Worship is led by the Headteacher, teachers and children. We welcome visitors to lead Collective Worship on a regular basis, including the Reverend from St. Michael’s Church. Representatives from other Church groups also play an important part in the life of our schools and regularly contribute to Acts of Worship at the schools, for example the Lighthouse Trust from Northampton. We also have visitors representing non-Christian faiths.

The main Christian Festivals are celebrated with services at St. Michael’s Church; these include Christmas, Easter and Harvest. Worship opportunities are offered to staff, children and their families at these services in the Parish Church.

Other opportunities for prayer and reflection are given at lunchtimes and in classes at the end of each academy day.

Early Years Foundation Stage

Pupils in our Foundation Stage are involved in Key Stage collective worship throughout the year. Participation in whole school worship may be delayed during the first few weeks in the autumn term until the pupils are familiar with their learning environment. In this instance, class worship will take place following the weekly theme or addressing Christian values which are most relevant at that time.

Parent/Governor Involvement

There is an open invitation to all parents and friends to attend our Friday Celebration Worship. This promotes the community spirit of the Academy.

Each class will deliver a class assembly/worship during the year to showcase their special work. Parents are invited to attend and dates are made available to the parents at the start of the academic year.

Parents are invited to attend services held at St Michael's Church including Christmas and Easter services.

We welcome governors' attendance at our Collective Worship at any time.

Content/Expectations

We conduct Collective Worship in a dignified and respectful way. We tell pupils that worship time is specific thinking time for calm reflection. We regard it as a special period and expect them to behave in an appropriate way. We ask them to be quiet and thoughtful and to listen carefully to the teaching. We invite them to participate in prayer and songs. We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music and a cross and candle that acts as a focal point for the attention of the pupils.

Worship incorporates music, hymns and songs, website clips, readings from The Bible and other sources, stories, drama, stillness, reflection, discussion and prayer.

All our worship includes these key elements:

- An altar table with appropriate liturgical coloured cloth
- The lighting of a candle to represent, "Jesus is the Light of the world" or
- The lighting of a candle to represent the Trinity
- Call and response
- A main discussion point or story
- Prayer/reflection time
- Blowing out of the candle
- Most collective worship will include a Christian song
- School messages are shared with the children once worship has closed

Content is linked to our Christian Values, with a different value being explored each week.

In addition to our Christian Values, Collective Worship also focusses on major festivals of Christianity and other national events which are commonly celebrated in primary schools. Special days of cultural significance, topics relating to British Values, Saints' Days and festivals are also discussed within our Collective Worship.

Contribution of Collective Worship to Teaching in Other Curriculum Areas

Work from across the curriculum is regularly celebrated and referred to during assemblies. Music, speaking and listening, discussion and stories are an integral part of daily acts of worship. Topical issues from around the world make important links to the history, science and geography curricula.

Right of Withdrawal

Our policy sets out clearly our aspirations that collective worship will be a valued experience for all members of our school community whatever their backgrounds and beliefs. It is invitational and reflective in nature and never coercive or indoctrinatory.

However, any parent / carer can request permission for their child to be excused from attending religious worship and the academy will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the pupil during the period concerned. Parents / carers do not have to explain or give reasons for this. This complies with current legislation. The Headteacher keeps a record of any pupils who are withdrawn from collective worship.

Staff retain the right to withdraw from the Act of Collective Worship but may still be expected to supervise Collective Worship.

Monitoring and Review

It is the role of the Academy Governance Committee (AGC) to monitor the policy and practice of collective worship. As part of this, pupil interviews are carried out / pupil evaluation forms are reviewed.