

St. Luke's Church of England V.A. Primary School
High standards, high expectations

Collective Worship Policy

This policy is based on the values and aims of our school. We see it as important for this school to function in an atmosphere of respect and trust. The life of the school and our whole curriculum are based on our living faith.

In this school we endeavour to:-

- contribute to the spiritual moral, social and cultural education of the pupils;
- provide some experience and understanding of what worship, and particularly Christian worship, is about;
- heighten children's awareness of questions about beliefs and commitments;
- appreciate symbolism and religious language.

Collective Worship should be wholly or mainly Christian in character and should be arranged so that there is a variety in grouping, content and leadership. This may include, Whole-School, Key Stage or Classroom Assemblies led by adults or groups of children. It should be appropriate to the age, aptitude and family background of pupils; should challenge them and enrich their experience; should take place in an appropriate setting; and should provide opportunity for pupils to participate in planning, in presentation and / or through an appropriate response.

Achievements and Special Occasions will be celebrated and where possible a reading or quotation from the Bible should be encouraged. Creative use of Hall / Room space should be used for worship, i.e., varying the direction or shape of sitting.

The Religious Education and Collective Worship Co-ordinator (when available) will keep a record of all Whole School or Key Stage Collective Acts of Worship, or allocate the task to another member of staff. Whilst fully complying with the law, the school will be sensitive to the fact that not all children will come from religious families.

It is expected that all pupils and staff will be presents at Acts of Collective Worship to add importance and value to the worship. Although the school recognises the legal right of parents to withdraw their child from Collective Worship it is hoped that as a Church School has been chosen for their child no such withdrawals will take place.

Collective Worship 'Themes' are linked largely with the Values for Life scheme, but special events and commemorative days may call for a departure from the selected theme.

Collective Worship should aim to be:

- * **Inclusive** - pupil centred and related to their experiences and concerns, so that pupils can be active participants wherever practical
- * **Educational** - should be properly prepared, executed and evaluated.
 - complimentary to some of the work done in Religious Education.
- * **Spiritual** - a time to gather, be still, reflect and be refreshed;

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- use of music to help in creating an atmosphere or linking to a special or topical focus;
- Collective Worship should allow pupils to reflect upon spiritual writing, music and works of art;
- material derived from Christian traditions will help to ensure the Christian character of much of the worship.
- opportunities for pupils to participate in a variety of spiritual activities, e.g. worship, singing, dancing, drama, prayer and quiet contemplation.

These activities should be appropriate to the pupil's ages.

The content and choice of activities, for an individual Act of Collective Worship, will be the responsibility of the person taking it.

Class Teachers should accompany their own class into an Act of Collective Worship, ensuring that appropriate behaviour is observed at all times.

During the Autumn Term, Reception children may not always be included in whole school acts of Collective Worship due to their immaturity. During this period they will have their own Classroom Assembly.

Approved by the Chairman of Governors

Signed.....

Date.....

Reviewed: September 2007

Next Review Date: September 2008