



Stottesdon C. of E. Primary School

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

This policy will be implemented within the context of our vision, aims and values as a Church of England School ([see website](#)) and as a member of the [Diocese of Hereford](#)

Rationale

We are committed to offering high quality collective worship and recognise this is central to fostering a sense of community, the unique heartbeat of our school and to expressing our Christian vision.

We aim for our collective worship to meet the needs of all, wherever they may be on their journey of faith and belief. As a result, the term collective worship is interchangeably used with collective reflection in order to be inclusive of all, wherever they are on their spiritual journey.

Collective worship/reflection is offered as part of a wider opportunity for pupils and adults to encounter faith by engaging in conversations about God, both as individuals and together. We want pupils to leave school with a rich experience and understanding of Christianity, and we are committed to offering them an encounter with Jesus Christ and with Christian faith and practice in a way that enhances their lives. Collective worship includes prayer, stillness or reflection, reading and reflecting on the Bible/story, liturgy, sacrament and experience of the musical and other imaginative riches. The encounter is inclusive, invitational and inspiring.

Inclusive: The school community meeting, exploring, questioning, and responding to others and, for some, to God. Many pupils and staff in our school will come from homes of different faith backgrounds as well as of no faith background. Moreover, many pupils will naturally be at different stages of their spiritual journey during their time in school. Pupils should be given the opportunity to think and ask questions. There should be space to consent, and dissent: to participate and to stand back; and to consider. It is an expectation that care will be taken to ensure that the language used by those facilitating worship avoids assuming faith in all those participating, listening and watching. Collective worship should not be 'done to' but will involve meaningful contributions from the whole school community, including pupils. It is recognised that pupils will bring their own experience to worship. Inclusion requires pupil involvement in planning, leading and the evaluation of worship.

Invitational: Parents, pupils and adults can expect to encounter worship that is consistently invitational. There should be no compulsion to 'do anything'. Rather, worship should provide the opportunity to engage whilst allowing the freedom of those of different faiths and those of no religious faith to be present and to engage with integrity. Pupils and adults should always only be invited to pray if they wish to do so and should be invited to pray in their own way. Prayer should always be accompanied by the option to reflect. Music and liturgies used in worship will reflect the best of traditional and modern Anglican worship and will connect with the theme.

Inspiring: Pupils and adults can expect the worship they encounter in our school to be inspirational: it should enable pupils and adults to ask big questions about who we are and why we do what we do. It should motivate pupils and adults into action, into thinking differently, and into reflecting on their and the wider community's behaviour and actions (living our values every day). It should encourage them to think searchingly about their faith, beliefs and/or philosophical convictions.

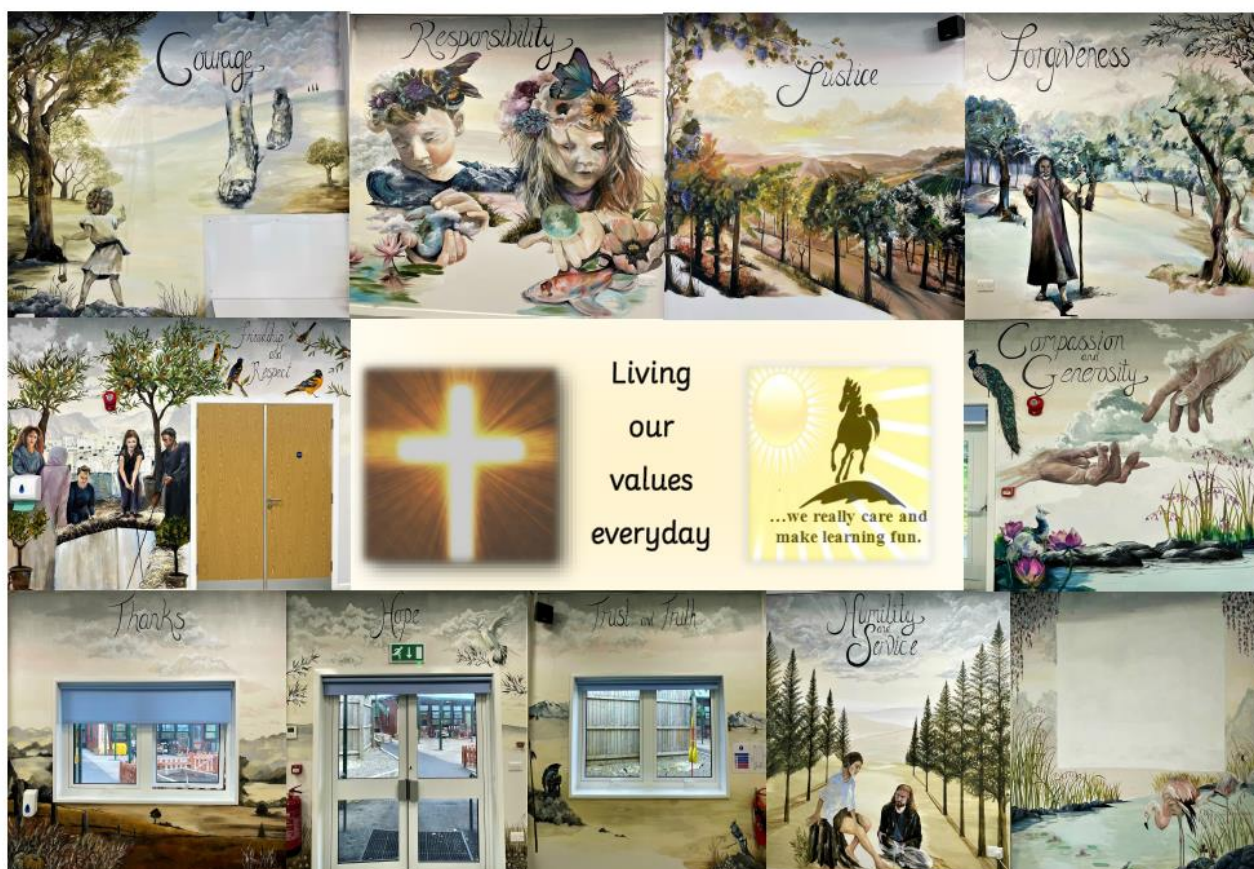
Aims

- To reflect on principles and values of Christians and people of other cultures, faiths and no faith.
- To consider spiritual and moral issues.
- To explore our own beliefs.
- To evoke feelings of wonder, awe, curiosity and empathy.
- To develop community spirit, promote a common ethos, shared values and positive attitudes.
- To actively participate and respond in activities.
- To bring the whole school together in thought and reflection.
- To create a sense of occasion and togetherness.
- To involve members of the wider church community.
- To link with the Christian calendar and jointly participate with these and other events at the church where possible (e.g., Harvest, Christmas, Ash Wednesday, Mother's Day, Easter, Trinity/Pentecost, Leaver's services)

Our school's values (below) are represented by mural artwork in our hall (and through posters of these in classes). Each mural represents a story in the Bible that helps teach us about this value (other stories are also used).

- **Courage** (David and Goliath, 1 Samuel 17)
- **Responsibility** (Stewardship, Genesis 1:26)
- **Justice** (Harvest Time in the Vineyard, Matthew 20:1-16)
- **Forgiveness** (The Lost Son, Luke 15:11-32)
- **Friendship** (The Five Friends, Luke 5:17-39)
- **Respect** (The Golden Rule, Matthew 7:12)
- **Compassion** (The Good Samaritan, Luke 10: 25-37)
- **Generosity** (The Generous Widow, Luke 21:1-4)
- **Thanks** (Harvest and Remembering to Give Thanks, Luke 17: 12-19)
- **Hope** (faith and perseverance) (Noah's Ark, Genesis 7: 1-7)
- **Trust and Truth** (The Faith of the Centurion, Matthew 8:5 – 10)
- **Humility and Service** (Jesus Washes the Disciple's Feet, John 13:1- 17)

The British values (democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect, tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs) are also referred to within our values.



Guidelines

1. Collective worship is held daily for approximately 15 minutes (10:30 Monday – Thursday, 2.50pm on Friday).
2. Collective worship is led by a range of people in our community:
 - Monday: Headteacher leads the theme
 - Tuesday: Headteacher or Reverend lead the theme
 - Wednesday: Open the book
 - Thursday: Phase leaders explore the theme, a picture news stimulus or No Outsiders stimuli in age appropriate phases
 - Friday: all staff celebration/giving thanks focus.
3. The act of worship will follow a recognisable format such as:



- Acclamation and lighting of the candle....'The Lord is here/The Lord be with you/Peace be with you', (response) 'His Spirit is with us/And also with you'.
- A hymn or song related to the theme (this could be as pupils enter or leave).
- A clear focus with pupil participation.
- Engaging elements such as music, stories, Bible readings, mime, drama, artefacts, posters, audio or visual materials.
- A worship or focal point with cross, candles and other items to support the theme.
- A quiet time or worship dimension: reflection, stilling, prayer, wonder, mystery, spirituality, celebration.

4. A two year overview has been developed using: the Christian values; Christian celebrations through the year; seasonal aspects of awe and wonder.

Year	Autumn	Spring	Summer
A	Hope Humility and service	Justice Forgiveness	Compassion Truth/Trust
B	Respect Thanks	Courage Friendship (Peace/Harmony/Together)	Responsibility/Creation Generosity

5. The Head, Reverend and teaching staff will plan an overview (example in Appendix 1) for the term (issued at beginning of term). Liaison with the Rector occurs termly. The assigned class teacher will also liaise with 'Open the Book' members regarding each weekly assembly.
6. The Head and Foundation Governors will monitor and evaluate collective worship and part of the school evaluation and school development cycle.
7. We recognise the right of withdrawal from collective worship for those parents or pupils who wish to exercise this option. Please contact the headteacher to discuss this.

Resources:

- Values For Life Programme (Head's office)
- Roots and Shoots Programme (Head's office)
- Picture News (emailed to Headteacher weekly)
- No Outsider's programme (Headteacher's office and on staff resources)
- Diocese/Church of England resources: <https://www.churchofengland.org/our-faith/faith-home/i-am-school-leader>: <https://www.worshipworkshop.org.uk/worship-planner>
- Music (songs and hymns) stored in hall music, staff resources.
- Termly Overviews (Headteacher documents; assemblies)

Appendix 1

Termly Overview for Worship

Mon: KJ-Values KS2; Tues: Rev Daborn/KJ; Wed: Open the Book; Thurs: CM/JJ Phase assembly 10.25/10.45; Fri: Achievers 2.45 – 3.05

Week	Theme (initial suggestions: please amend as appropriate)
	Coming together in the hall - a new school year - new beginning - fresh start Golden Rules Our Collective Worship - No outsiders - book gifts Jigsaw launch assembly Rosh Hashanah or Picture News - applying our values to the world around us Phase assembly - Jigsaw launch assembly (Jerrie Cat and Mindfulness?)
	Value: Hope - symbols of light - Simeon - our hopes - light and dark (Roots and Shoots 'I am the light of the world') Yom Kippur or Picture News - applying our values to the world around us Open the Book Phase assembly - No outsiders assembly/Jigsaw puzzle piece launch
	Value: Hope - Rainbow - symbol of hope International Day of Peace - Roots and Shoots 'Blessed are the Peacemakers' Open the Book Phase assembly - Jigsaw celebration assembly/Picture News/European Day of Languages
	Value: Hope - planting seeds of hope Roots and Shoots - Don't be worried Celebrating Autumn Open the Book Phase assembly - No outsiders assembly/Picture News
	Value: Hope for the future - A new Heaven and a new Earth Open the Book Harvest Festival at church? - Roots and Shoots 'A Tree is known by the fruit it bears' Phase assembly - Jigsaw celebration assembly/Picture News
	Value: Bringing Hope to Others Roots and Shoots 'Do Not Judge Others' World Mental Health Day Open the Book Phase assembly - No outsiders assembly/Picture News
	Roots and Shoots - this is how we pray - lord's prayer Roots and Shoots - Love one another Open the Book Phase assembly - Jigsaw celebration assembly/Picture News
	Half Term
	All Saints Day and All Souls Day Divali, Bonfire Night Open the Book Phase assembly - No outsiders assembly/Picture News
	Value: Humility - serving others - Roots and Shoots - Using our talents to serve others Remembrance Open the Book Phase assembly - Jigsaw celebration assembly/Picture News
	Value: Humility - seeking help Roots and Shoots - receiving as well as giving Anti - bullying week Open the Book Phase assembly - No outsiders assembly/Picture News
	Value: Humility - taking advice Roots and Shoots - giving with no strings attached Open the Book Phase assembly - Jigsaw celebration assembly/Picture News
	Value: Humility - living humbly Roots and Shoots - living for others Advent Sunday/Christingle St Andrew's Day Open the Book Phase assembly - No outsiders assembly/Picture News
	Value: Humility - learning humility The real meaning of Christmas - Roots and shoots Assemblies Hanukkah Open the Book - Christmas story Phase assembly - Jigsaw celebration assembly/Picture News
	Christmas reflection - Roots and Shoots assemblies Christmas celebrations/Nativity/Production