

# Collective Worship Policy

## Introduction

This policy explains the arrangements for Collective Worship at Stratford St Mary Primary School and how the legislation is interpreted at the school.

Legal Requirements for Collective Worship for a County School

The 1988 Education Act stated that in a County Primary:

- All pupils must take part in a collective act of worship every day
- The act of Collective Worship may be as a whole school or in different age groupings, it may happen at any time of the school day
- It should take place on school premises. For the purpose of this policy, Stratford St Mary Church is deemed to be part of the school premises. This is because it may, on occasions, be more appropriate for collective act of worship to be held there
- The head teacher is responsible for ensuring the legal requirements for collective worship are met.
- Every member of staff, including the Head, has the legal right to withdraw from the act of collective worship. The Head remains responsible for finding someone suitable to organise and lead the acts of worship
- All parents have the right to withdraw their children from collective worship, wholly or partially. The school's responsibility for the child's health and safety is still paramount

## The Aims of Collective Worship at Stratford St Mary Primary School

The Government requires all schools to provide an act of Collective Worship. At Stratford St Mary Primary School it is acknowledged that the school community is not a 'worshipping community' in the same sense as a local church. However, the school provides daily acts of collective worship which are intended to help the children understand some of the features of worship in a believing Christian community.

The law also requires the school to provide its pupils with an opportunity to worship God as part of the collective worship. This may take the form of spoken prayers or there will be a quiet time for the

pupils to think about what they have heard during the collective worship and this time can be used by pupils to worship God if they wish to do so.

## The Approach to Collective Worship at Stratford St Mary Primary School

The acts of collective worship are planned to be inspiring and to give pupils a variety of experiences to enable them to reflect on, and to respond to; things which the school believes to be important. These experiences include :

- Stories
- Drama
- Dance
- Poetry
- Music
- TV/radio

An act of Collective Worship takes place at Stratford St Mary School every day. These acts of worship are led by the Head or another member of the teaching staff, but visiting speakers are invited to the school as appropriate and children are invited to actively participate and lead assemblies on a regular basis.

The acts of worship follow half termly themes which support the aims of the school. Whilst we follow these themes allowances are made for marking festivals and other noteworthy events.

## Resources for Collective Worship

These are available in the hall and staff room

## Withdrawal

Parents may ask for their child to be totally or partially withdraw from collective worship in accordance with the Education Act. They are advised of this right in the school prospectus and on the school website and asked to contact the Head to make arrangements. No reason has to be given. Likewise, staff also have the right to withdraw from Acts of Collective Worship.