

Collective Worship Policy

Streatley Church of England (VC) Primary School

The vision of the school

At Streatley, together we grow as a tree within our community enabling us to be happy, healthy humans. "A tree is known by its fruit" Matthew 12:33. Our school is known by our children.

Purpose and Background

This policy aims to outline the purpose and nature of collective worship within the school. It recognises, affirms and celebrates the values held to be of central importance to the school community and which enable us to fulfil the vision of the school. A fuller exploration of religious beliefs and traditions takes place within religious education. For this, refer to the Religious Education Policy.

Aims of Collective Worship

We provide all children with opportunities to:

- Consider moral and spiritual issues and values which are of a broadly Christian character
- Hear and respond to selected stories from the Bible and other sources
- Increase their understanding of how Christian's worship and how they express their faith
- Develop an understanding of the person of Jesus Christ and the Christian belief in God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit
- Experience Christian Festivals and to worship in the local church at certain times in the school year
- Explore and share beliefs, respecting the importance of religious beliefs to those who hold them
- Participate and respond in various ways, such as spending time in reflection, discussion and prayer
- Explore feelings of wonder, awe, mystery and joy
- Think of the needs of others and develop a sense of community

Our Approach

Our Collective Worship reflects the traditions of this country which are, in the main, broadly Christian. We follow the Anglican Church calendar as a starting point, celebrating key moments in the Christian year.

Our local curate works closely with the school and leads our Collective Worship on a weekly basis. We use "Story Assemblies for the School Year" as our main resource along with a range of Christian songs and hymns. Collective Worship includes the use of prayers, songs and hymns, Bible stories and other stories, time to share and time to reflect. Candles are lit to mark the beginning of a Whole School Assembly.

We have created a Collective Worship Team, to allow children who have shown a particular interest in Collective Worship, to take a more active role in both assemblies and in developing areas for reflection around the school.

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Monday – Whole School Assembly led by Head Teacher – Birthday Celebrations

Adult- *A tree is known by its fruit.* Response – *Our school is known by its children.*

Tuesday – Key Stage Assemblies led by Class Teachers- “Story Assemblies for the School Year”

Adult- *The Lord is here.* Response- *His spirit is with us.*

Wednesday – Whole School Assembly led by local Curate- “Story Assemblies for the School Year”

Adult- *The Lord is here.* Response- *His spirit is with us.*

Thursday – Whole School Assembly led by Teaching Staff – Hymns and songs linked to seasons.

Adult- *The Lord is here.* Response- *His spirit is with us.*

Friday – Whole School Assembly led by Head Teacher – Celebration Assembly

Adult- *A tree is known by its fruit.* Response – *Our school is known by its children.*

Worship at our local church

Children, staff, governors and parents are welcome to our end of term and festival services held in the local church. We hold an annual Harvest Festival Celebration, Remembrance Service and a Christmas service including nativity and carols at St. Mary’s. At the end of the Easter term we join Goring Primary school in a joint service at St. Thomas’ Church in Goring. The end of the school year is also marked with a service at St. Mary’s in which the Year 6 children are each given a Bible.

Outside Agencies

Outside agencies including charity representatives are invited, where appropriate, to share their experiences with the children such as the NSPCC and The Whale company. Children’s sensitivity to the needs of others is highlighted in practical terms by a variety of fundraising activities throughout the year. Many of which, are charities that the children have chosen to support themselves. Recently we have supported charities such as Wallingford Foodbank, Macmillan cancer support, Samaritans Purse, Youths with Epilepsy and Children in Need. At Christmas we support Save the Children through Christmas jumper day and traditionally we have had the Jesse tree.

Associated Policies and documents

- Religious Education Policy
- Definition of Spirituality
- Sex Education and Relationships Policy