



THE CATHEDRAL SCHOOL  
OF ST. SAVIOUR AND ST. MARY OVERIE

# Collective Worship Policy

## **Collective Worship Policy**

In accordance with our Trust Deed and statutory requirements, Christian collective worship is placed at the centre of the school's daily life. The 1988 Education Reform Act requires a daily act of collective, broadly Christian worship, and in the context of Cathedral Primary School this must follow the Southwark Cathedral Anglican ethos.

Collective worship is a special and essential worthwhile activity which enhances learning and the corporate life of the school. Collective worship must focus on spiritual and moral development in the context of the Christian faith and should acknowledge the beliefs of all faiths and none. Creating a worshipful atmosphere in which behaviour and movement is appropriate and in which quiet, reflective music is present, is essential.

Collective worship must feel and look different to other times of the day – hence a candle / icon as a focus. Through the use of song, story, drama, prayer, music, hymns, readings and silence, the community may come to a deeper understanding of the spiritual dimension in their lives.

As collective worship is a spiritual occasion, it is essentially a time for learners and staff to reflect upon questions concerning ultimate reality and the search for meaning and purpose in life. Collective worship must be seen as meaningful, worthwhile, accorded respect and where everyone's sensitivity is nurtured.

### **Aims**

- To create a stimulating, reflective, peaceful atmosphere within which children can develop a positive attitude to worship.
- To ensure the Cathedral School community is comfortable with silence in worship
- To provide a sound knowledge and understanding of the Christian faith, and the opportunity to adopt Christian values.
- To encourage everyone to respect and value every individual, including the desire to help others.
- To develop a sense of community.
- To develop self respect, and an opportunity to reflect on the relevance and meaning of the Christian faith personally and within the communities in which we live and around the globe.
- To accord special status to Jesus Christ as God Made Man
- To relate specifically to Christian belief and activity

### **Management**

Church services are held in Southwark Cathedral six times a year, for BVM, Christmas, Candlemas, Easter, Pentecost and the Leavers Service. Pupils are actively involved in the preparation and presentation of the service, and are encouraged to write their own

prayers. Holy Communion is also offered to communicant children from Years 4-6 after the whole school services in September, February and May.

There are daily assemblies at 9.00am, lasting quarter of an hour.

A candle is lit to symbolise the special, spiritual nature of our gathering, and a hymn or sacred song is sung.

Mondays: Spiritual theme, Headteacher/DHT

Tuesdays: class-led

Wednesdays: Spiritual theme, teacher or Governor-led

Thursdays, Spiritual theme, clergy and Yr6 pupil led

Fridays: Celebration of learning, Led by Year 6

The acts of worship follow weekly themes in a Christian context, set a term in advance and available on the staffroom wall and on the electronic calendar.

The themes are reviewed annually. At the beginning and end of the act of worship children and staff are encouraged to be silent in order to benefit from private reflection whilst appropriately reflective music is played. The pupils learn simple prayers, hymns and songs.

On Tuesdays, the leading class may share work with a reflective and spiritual relationship to the theme of the worship. A hymn, period of reflection and prayers must be included.

Class led assemblies are designed to be simple, effective, lasting no longer than ten minutes and to convey a Christian message, that leads to expression of spiritual values – such themes as awe, wonder, praise can be weaved in to elements of work within class. It is not a 'show and tell' opportunity for parents.

All classes have an opportunity to display and show work through an act of collective worship. Education, celebration, praise and hope are essential features of collective worship at Cathedral Primary School.

Members of the clergy, the Head teacher and RE subject leader are all happy to support class teachers in further guidance on themes and prayers. Staff are encouraged to either choose a theme from their RE for the term, or from another area of study that normally lends itself to worship – such as peace, prayer, using our senses.

In the event of no collective worship taking place, it is required that teachers lead a short period of reflection in classrooms, based on the term's theme, and included a period of quiet reflection and a prayer.

### **Community Participation**

The school encourages the full support of governors' and parents' attendance at, and participation by Governors, in collective worship. Usually parents support their child when leading worship and occasionally attend the daily act of worship, or at the Cathedral for our six major services. Governors also take lead roles in end-of-term assemblies.