

Collective Worship Policy



'Let your light shine'

Our vision for our community is for everyone, children and adults, to flourish and shine brightly as the best and fullest version of their unique selves. We aim high and do not let circumstances limit us. We learn the ow's, wow's and now's of life and recognize how they help us to become the unique person we were made to be. In the Old Testament, we see that God created all human beings in his image as unique, loved individuals. It was God's plan for all of creation, including human beings, to flourish. God's desire is for us all to be amazing – loved, valued, represented, celebrated, and fulfilled.

Genesis 1:27: "So, God created human beings, making them to be like himself."

Psalm 139:13-14: "For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful."

In our community, we express this through our motto: 'Let your light shine.' To us, this means being ambitious and determined, proud of who we are and what we can be, pushing boundaries, trying new things, making a difference, being brave, and continuing to learn. It means celebrating diversity and difference, treasuring the uniqueness of everyone. We are committed to the full flourishing of everyone – body, mind, and spirit. *'I will shine. We will shine as, together, we grow in wisdom, learning from the teachings of Jesus, to serve our community.'*

Matthew 5:16 *'Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your father in heaven.'*

The work of our school is to equip everyone to discover and love their unique self, to express it boldly and confidently through their treasured gifts, and to find their place in making God's world a better place.

John 10:10: "I came so they can have real and eternal life, more and better life than they ever dreamed of."

Collective worship at Stretton

In accordance with the law for all schools and academies, at Stretton, we hold a daily act of collective worship which is of a broadly Christian character, reflecting the diverse traditions of Christian belief and marking the cycle of the church's year.

We strive to ensure that our acts of worship (or 'assemblies') are inspirational, invitational and inclusive for all members of our school community.

Aims of collective worship:

- To understand what spirituality is and have an opportunity to flourish spiritually.
- To foster a sense of personal 'worship' and collective fellowship, bringing the whole school community together.
- To explicitly link our vision and values to scripture and help staff and children grow on their own spiritual journeys as we focus on those values.
- To create an atmosphere of occasion and reverence where those who wish to worship feel supported and where others are brought into a meaningful encounter in a liminal space with something beyond themselves.
- To encourage in pupils a reflective approach to life.
- To introduce various aspects of religious worship to involve pupils and inspire everyone attending: prayer, singing, music, drama, silent reflection, art, poetry, story.
- To foster deepening understanding of theological concepts and the power symbolism and metaphor e.g. Trinity, Light, Bread et al.
- To provide opportunities to explore sensitively with pupils what is meaningful and significant to them in the face of life's mysteries, including the 'darker' side of life.
- To celebrate all that is good and lovely about life - especially our school community, our friends and families and the natural world
- To foster feelings of gratitude and courageous advocacy.
- To foster an understanding that faith transcends politics and geographical boundaries as we make meaningful links with Christians across our Diocese, our country and the world.

Organisation and Venue

Acts of worship are led by senior leaders, staff, children, clergy and invited visitors.

Collective Worship is not RE although they can and should complement each other. The dedicated time for Collective Worship is between fifteen and twenty minutes per day.

Our week has two types of worship: Whole school and class worship.

Whole school worship takes place in our hall which has many other functions throughout the school day. To create an atmosphere of 'special time and sacred space', we give careful attention to:

- having a worship table which has a cloth to match the colours of the liturgical year;
- having a visual focus: candles, a cross, a plant, etc.;
- having a Bible on display;
- having carefully chosen music playing as we enter and leave the hall
- sometimes displaying a relevant picture, phrase or question on the screen to direct thinking and encourage reflection whilst waiting for worship to begin
- on occasions, having everyone entering and singing one of our well-known worship songs
- expecting that everyone (children and adults alike) enters the hall in an intentionally

reflective manner.

- minimising interruptions from people walking through the hall during worship time.

These are also the guiding principles for teachers leading their own class worship.

We have a structure to worship which is:

- Welcome and invitation to gather – candles
- Theme- Theologically rooted with reference to biblical text
- Links to the world today
- Opportunity for reflection
- Opportunity to pray
- Leaving together

Worship themes are mapped out alongside the liturgical calendar, but the school responds to local and national focuses and issues where relevant. Worship in sequence includes opportunities for worship related to the schools Christian values.

-Fairness

-Truth

-Hope

-Love

-Perseverance

-Peace & Reconciliation

Other types of Worship

Each class leads an act of collective worship throughout the year linked to one of our school values. to celebrate and showcase their learning to the school, and to their family members.

This includes a prayer and a song. Other opportunities to lead collective worship come through our child leadership opportunities. Occasionally our worship takes place in St John Divine Church at times of major festivals in the Christian calendar such as Harvest, Ash Wednesday, Ascension, Remembrance, Christmas, Easter and for our Leavers Service in July.

Our normal weekly pattern of worship is:

Day	Worship
Monday	Whole School Worship
Tuesday	Class Worship – Linked to a Bible Story
Wednesday	Phase/Class Worship
Thursday	Worship Through Song
Friday	Celebrating Our Shining lights

Arrangements for recording, monitoring and evaluating Collective Worship

Each year group has a collective worship floor book where collective worship is recorded. The recording focus on children's reflections and can include, statements of reflection, prayer, links to everyday life. Worship floor books are monitored twice over the school year.

Collective worship is monitored termly through an observation of worship, pupil voice. From these recommendations are made on how to improve collective worship.

Parents have the right to withdraw their child from an act of collective worship, however, we would urge you to discuss this with the headteacher in the first instance.