Standlake CE Primary School

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

This policy was agreed by governors on:
Date:
To be reviewed:
Signed by Chair of Governors:
Signed by Headteacher:

Introduction

We are a community where every member is a light in the world-full of unique gifts, potential and purpose. We are committed to nurturing an environment where everyone is encouraged to shine brightly in who they are and what they do.

Light of the World Matthew 5 14-16

You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on a stand, and it gives light to everyone's house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your father in heaven.

Through our Shine curriculum, we aim high for all, offering both challenge and support so that every child can grow in confidence, character and capability. We believe that by recognising and nurturing each child's individual strengths, they can achieve their full potential-academically, socially and spiritually.

We enable children to understand their place in the world, who they are and how they can serve others. We actively create opportunities for service to others, helping children understand the value of compassion, kindness, support and friendship - just as Jesus taught.

Our wider curriculum is designed to develop responsible and inclusive global citizens. We help children understand the wider world and their place in it, encouraging them to embrace difference, celebrate diversity, and act justly and wisely.

Together, we seek to be a school family where every light is seen, every voice is heard and every individual matters.

Collective Worship is the heartbeat of the school, expressing the school's vision, where those of faith or none feel at ease. Worship shapes our approach to others and to what we do in school. It is inclusive, invitational and inspiring, providing time to learn, reflect and leave empowered to make ourselves and the world around us that little bit better. It provides opportunities to respectfully think, question, consent, dissent, participate, consider or stand back, enabling everyone to feel comfortable whenever and wherever Collective Worship takes place.

Aims

The aims of worship at Standlake CE Primary School are:

• to create an atmosphere in which genuine worship may take place and where pupils' own beliefs are valued and each one has the opportunity to respond in their own way;

• to enable pupils to reflect on Christian values and to explore their own beliefs;

• to explore and enable pupils to understand our school vision which is supported by Matthew 5 14-16 – 'You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on a stand, and it gives light to everyone's house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your father in heaven.'

to bring staff and pupils together to experience the security of belonging to a community with an identity of its own;

• to explore Christianity from a multi-cultural, global perspective, fostering a respect for peoples of all ethnic origins;

• to make an important contribution to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils;

• celebrate and give thanks to God for achievements within the school, local and international community and occasions of significance, including festivals;

• to support the broader creative curriculum through the use of art, music, dance, poetry, story, drama and other visual and oral means of communication.

Worship will reflect aspects of the curriculum and in particular will:

• nurture spiritual growth;

• enable participants to consider moral questions in a Christian context;

• enhance social understanding and encourage responses to issues through courageous advocacy;

• give participants a chance to reflect on the place and importance of faith in the lives of people today;

• encourage participants to explore beliefs drawn from their own cultural heritage;

• reflect the teachings of Jesus and a trinitarian theology

The Pattern of Collective Worship

Collective worship takes place in the school hall and sometimes in classrooms. On occasions, worship takes place in St Giles Church. Collective worship usually involves the whole school however it can take place with a variety of groupings.

We follow the seasons of the Church year and within these significant festivals, other special days are observed. These always include Harvest, Christmas, Easter and Pentecost. Other important days in the calendar such as Remembrance and the Little Loaves Service also feature in collective worship. Whenever worship takes place it is planned to promote participants' thinking beyond the time given to worship itself.

Worship is inclusive, invitational and inspirational.

Each week, collective worship follows the same pattern with each day having a particular focus, as detailed below:

• Monday – Value focus (including 'Small Hands Change the World') – Headteacher led

• Tuesday – Value focus – Clergy/chaplain led

• Wednesday – Cultural focus/special celebrations-Assistant Headteacher led

• Thursday – Singing worship-led by Music lead

• Friday – Celebration - Headteacher led

Leading worship

Worship has a variety of leaders from both within school and from the local Church Community. Pupils are given opportunities to lead and contribute to worship throughout the year.

Visitors are welcome to contribute to collective worship from time to time and are given guidance from the collective worship policy.

Every term we have a group of Y6 children who are our 'Worship Team'. They are given the responsibility of opening and closing collective worship, symbolically lighting the candle and using our opening liturgy to welcome the school community to collective worship as well as leading prayers. We aim to give children confidence in public speaking, teaching them specifically the skills need for public speaking and engaging an audience.

Worship framework

Worship themes are planned termly (see Appendix one) and reflect the School's ethos. Although the themes will be revisited on a three-yearly basis, they are broad enough to allow for sufficient choice and flexibility.

Planning for collective worship includes the liturgical colours of the church year and the worship team use this when preparing the altar by selecting the appropriate coloured cloth.

Our Monday collective worship in the first week of every half term will link to the value for the half term and be focused on a child or young person who, through their work, have improved the lives of others. These assemblies are called 'Small Hands Can Change the World' and are designed to inspire the children at Standlake School to think beyond themselves and their community to the wider world and think about ways to help others. This links with our 'Small Hands Can Change the World' mornings held four times a year where we work in house teams to help others by visiting the local care home, raising money for charity, maintaining the school grounds etc.

At significant times in the Christian/school calendar (such as Harvest, Christmas, Easter, the end of the school year), services take place for the whole school community in St Gile's Church. Parents, friends and Governors are also invited to attend.

Our worship is regularly reviewed through discussions with participants, observation and reflection. and our evaluations are fed into the planning for future worship.

A legal note

By law, Collective Worship must be provided for every child, every day.

Our policy sets out clearly our aspiration that collective worship will be a valuable and valued experience for all members of our school community whatever their backgrounds and beliefs. It is invitational, inclusive and reflective in nature and never coercive or indoctrinatory.

Parents have a right to withdraw their children from all or any acts of worship. In the first instance we ask parents who may wish to exercise this right to visit school to speak with the headteacher.

Policy Review

This policy should be reviewed regularly in line with schools' procedures. An annual review is recommended if possible, but review must be done within a 3-year period.

Appendix 1

STANDLAKE CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Values for 2025-2026		
Term	Value	Small Hands Can Change the World
Autumn 1	Friendship	Kelvin Doe
Autumn 2	Peace	Malala Yousafzai
Spring 1	Creativity	Maya Penn
Spring 2	Trust	Zuriel Oduwole
Summer 1	Forgiveness	Anne Frank
Summer 2	Justice	Nkosi Johnson

Values for 2026-2027		
Term	Value	Small Hands Can Change the World
Autumn 1	Courage	Emma Gonzalez
Autumn 2	Compassion	Jaylen Arnold
Spring 1	Thankfulness	Sophie Cruz
Spring 2	Humility	Nicholas Lowinger
Summer 1	Truthfulness	Claudette Colvin
Summer 2	Hope	Greta Thunberg

Values for 2027-2028		
Term	Value	Small Hands Can Change the World
Autumn 1	Respect	Marley Dias
Autumn 2	Resilience	Robby Novak
Spring 1	Curiosity	Gitanjali Rao
Spring 2	Community	Melati and Isabel Wijsen
Summer 1	Service	Mary Grace Henry

Summer 2	Care	Xiuhtezcatl Martinez