

Longstone CE (VA)  
Primary School



## Collective Worship Policy

Version: 4.2

Date: May 2017

## 1. Summary

This document explains the school's policy on and organisation of collective worship.

## 2. Document control

### 2.1 Owner

The owner of this document is the Head Teacher. All requests for change should be directed to them.

Any printed copies of this document are for reference only; the definitive version is the computer file held on the school office administrator's computer.

### 2.2 Revision history

Date	Version	Changes	Author(s)
01Dec08	1.0		
05Jan10	2.0	addition: mission statement & aims	J Rackstraw
14 Jan 13	3.0	Detail and clarity to section 3	Gemma Harvey & Sophie Bell
1 July 2015	4	Changes to current practice	Sophie Bell
May 2017		Addition of reference to R.E. themes	Sophie Bell

### 2.3 Approval

Date	Version	Approver(s)	Minute number
01Dec08	1.0	Governors	9.1
	2.0	Governors	
5/3/13	3.0	Strategic & Standards Committee	4.4 5/3/13
1/7/15	4	Strategic & Standards Committee	5.1
10/5/17	4.2	Strategic & Standards Committee	5.1

### 2.4 Review period

The maximum period between reviews of this document is: 2 years

Version	Next revision due
4.2	May 2019

## **Statement of Policy**

*At Longstone School we strive to create a happy, safe and creative school in which everybody can grow, learning new things together. We know that everyone is important whatever their background and whatever their aspirations. Belonging to a safe and nurturing community, founded on strong Christian values, children will thrive and develop into well-rounded individuals who are equipped to meet the challenges of our modern world with confidence. These values are embedded in all of our policies and practice.*

### **1. Mission Statement**

At Longstone Church of England (Voluntary Aided) School we endeavour to provide the highest quality primary education within the context of a caring and supportive Christian ethos.

This policy furthers the aims of the school which are to:

- Respect and kindness
- Happiness and belonging
- High expectations for everyone
- Achieving our potential
- A passion for learning
- Working together in a happy safe environment

### **2. Legal Requirements**

Longstone School is a Church of England Primary School and conforms to the following legal requirements:

- i) There must be a daily Act of Collective Worship for all registered pupils of compulsory school age
  - ii) Teachers have the right to withdraw from Collective Worship
  - iii) Parents have the right to withdraw their children from Collective Worship.
- (See Appendix 1)

### **3. Aims and Purpose of Collective Worship**

Collective Worship is an important part of each day for the children - as a coming together to celebrate, share, reflect, learn and worship.

- Provide an opportunity for the children to worship God
- Enable children to consider spiritual and moral issues
- Enable children to explore their own beliefs
- Encourage participation and response
- Develop in children a sense of community spirit
- Promote an understanding of the importance of British Values
- Promote a common ethos with shared values and to reinforce positive attitudes
- Teach children how to worship
- To encourage daily opportunities for reflection

In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act, which states that Collective Worship should be 'wholly or mainly of a Christian character'. Collective worship at Longstone School is normally based on the teachings of Christ and the traditions of the Christian Church. Some acts of worship reflect other religious traditions that are represented in the school and wider community, and we also base worship on current themes and issues (eg National fund-raising events, natural disasters etc) collective worship is conducted in a manner, which is sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs of all members of the school.

Whilst each act of Collective Worship through the week has a particular theme or purpose, they all have in common the following:

- A time for peaceful, calm reflection - usually at the start, when music is played and during prayers at the close.
- Opportunity for celebration through singing.
- Opportunity to worship through prayer - led by the teacher or children.
- Collective Worship has the Christian faith at its heart and reflects the school's voluntary aided status.
- The Lord's Prayer is regularly used for the close of Collective Worship. In addition to morning assemblies, classes regularly finish the day with prayer and time for a peaceful reflection.

#### **4. Organisation of Collective Worship**

We hold a daily act of Collective Worship in school. We try to create an appropriate atmosphere using music and candles and other focal objects. Children are expected to behave in a thoughtful and appropriate way and are encouraged to participate fully in the discussion, activities, prayers and hymns.

#### **5. Themes for Collective Worship**

Themes for the assemblies are planned carefully, in consultation with the vicar of St. Giles Church, to reflect the festivals and traditions of the Christian faith and these are often linked to and build upon topics that we teach as part of the school curriculum including human values, moral and social issues.

Collective Worship is used to introduce and celebrate the whole school Vision and values. There is a termly rota which lists weekly themes. (See Collective Worship folder) There are suggested ideas for prayer and reflection, but staff are also encouraged to develop their own ideas and also to provide their own resources. There is a three yearly cycle of themes for collective worship to ensure coverage of themes.

One assembly per week is specifically devoted to reflect the learning and achievements of the children. (Celebration Assembly) We encourage the children to participate in assemblies by answering questions, contributing ideas and volunteering to help in activities. Pupils are involved in the delivery of Collective Worship.

#### **6. Content of Collective Worship**

Collective Worship is an expression of thanksgiving, adoration and praise. Throughout the year we will endeavor to explore those areas that are shared by mainstream Christian denominations.

Such areas will include Christian understanding of:

- the nature of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit; the purpose of creation
- the relationship of God to creation and to people in particular
- the nature and work of Jesus
- judgment and eternal life
- the application of Christian beliefs to religious, moral and social issues and practices
- the sacrifice, devotion and service of Christians throughout the world and Christian history.

We will also explore values that are part of the broad traditions of Christian belief which are essential to a great many who are not Christian;

- ideals of loving and caring;
- the value of both the individual and the community
- human stewardship of the natural world and its resources; a concern for social justice
- the importance of British Values in modern Britain

The majority of our Collective Worship sessions will include one or more of the following elements of collective worship;

- hymns and Songs and other music
- prayer
- the Use of Sacred and Secular Writings
- the Use of Story
- presentation
- focus (eg. Artifacts, demonstration, drama, video, poetry, puppetry)

Acts of Worship may have a variety of purposes. In some the aim may be to be reflective. Others may be celebratory or exploratory. Many will, first and foremost, be thought provoking.

There may be times when announcements about school administration unavoidably overlap with Acts of Worship. On these occasions such notices/verbal signposts should be given before or after the Act of Worship as they form no part of it. However, moral issues and awards for achievement may form an integral part of the act itself.

## **7. Staffing**

The Head Teacher and teaching staff conduct our assemblies on a rota basis. We also welcome visitors, including Church leaders, Diocesan workers and lay people to lead some of our assemblies. Governor attendance at our assemblies is welcomed at any time. Parents are welcome to visit assemblies at any time but are specifically invited to 'Family Assemblies' on Friday afternoons. Parents are also invited to attend 'Class Assemblies'.

## **8. Links with St. Giles Church**

The school values its close links with the Church and the wider community. The vicar leads Collective Worship regularly. Collective Worship is usually held in Church on the first Wednesday of each month. This is very important, especially for those children who do not regularly attend church.

On other occasions during the year, such as at Harvest, a service is held which involves families making contributions for the community or a local or international charity. A 'Leavers Service' is held in Church each summer in the last week of the school year to celebrate the children's time at Longstone School as they prepare to move on to secondary school. This important milestone is celebrated with parents and friends. We encourage the children, staff and Governors to contribute to these services.

**9. Links with other Churches and Christian organisations globally.**

We recognise the importance of teaching our children about Christianity around the world, and endeavour to do so through collective worship activities and stories. We use images and films of Christian people and practices around the world.

**10. Monitoring and Review**

In liaison with the Head Teacher, it is the role of named Governor(s) with responsibility for Religious Education and Collective Worship to monitor the policy and practice of Collective Worship.

Signed ..... (Collective Worship Leader)

Signed ..... (Head Teacher)

Signed ..... (Chair of Strategic, Standards and Curriculum Committee)

## APPENDIX 1

### THE LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

#### The 1944 Act:

- There must be a daily Act of Collective Worship for all registered pupils, which in county schools must be non-denominational.
- Teachers in county and church controlled schools have the right to withdraw from collective worship.
- Parents have the right to withdraw their children from collective worship.
- Head teachers have the right of withdrawal, although it is their duty to ensure that the law on collective worship is complied with in their school.
- It is important to note, however, that all teachers are required to attend secular assemblies or those parts of assemblies, such as the giving out of notices, when collective worship is not taking place.
- If pupils who are withdrawn remain on school premises during collective worship, the school has an overall responsibility for their health and safety.
- Parents may wish their children to take part in worship according to a particular faith or denomination. They may take them elsewhere if suitable arrangements can be made which do not interfere with the pupil's education.

#### The 1988 Act:

- Collective worship may be held at any time during the school day and in a variety of groupings; the whole school together or some other grouping which is normal for school activities.