



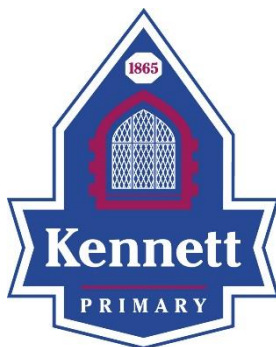
# Staploe Education Trust

*Excellence through partnership*



## Collective Worship Policy

<b>Policy owned by Kennett and The Shade Advisory Body</b>	
<b>Approved on:</b>	<b>June 2017</b>
<b>Date of next review:</b>	<b>Summer 2020</b>
<b>Chair Signature:</b>	<b>J Humphrey</b>





## **Statutory Duty of School**

All maintained schools provide daily collective worship for registered pupils (apart from those who have been **withdrawn by their parents**). This is usually provided within a daily assembly. The head teacher is responsible (under the School Standards and Framework Act 1998) for arranging the daily collective worship after consulting with the governing body. Daily collective worship must be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character.

## **Introduction**

Worship has a wide range of meanings and forms of expression. For some people this might be devotion to a divine being, power or personal God; for others it might mean reflection on and understanding of those elements of life which are of value and worthwhile. Topics linked to other faiths will also be covered. Our prayers and forms of worship are inclusive and broadly non-denominational.

## **Aims and Purpose**

During collective worship we aim to:

- Fulfil the statutory requirements of a daily act of collective worship for all pupils;
- Reflect on and understand elements of life which are of value and worth;
- Provide a variety of opportunities for spiritual, moral, social and cultural development;
- Provide opportunities for expressing shared experiences and interests and for celebrating special occasions together;
- Provide opportunities in which pupils interact with other year groups, staff and, on occasions, the wider community;
- Provide an all-inclusive opportunity to build and reinforce community values.

## **The definition of school worship adopted by the school**

Worship is regarded as a collective act or opportunity to think about and relate to God, and to consider and reflect upon how belief and faith in God may affect our lives. Worship regularly incorporates prayer and reflection. Through collective worship we aim to:

- Contribute to the personal development of the individual;
- Enhance pupils' spiritual and moral development;
- Encourage our pupils to explore and question their own beliefs and to consider the beliefs and feelings of others;
- Build a community identity through which individuals feel valued;
- Offer the opportunity for celebration and reflection;
- Offer consideration of issues which are important to the ethos of the school and the wider community.



## **The School Community**

Assemblies are non-denominational and conducted in a manner which is sensitive to the faiths and beliefs of all members of the school community.

## **Organisation of Collective Worship**

Collective worship involves members of the school coming together and participating in an assembly every day. These assemblies normally involve all of the pupils in the school. Assemblies will usually last about 15 minutes. We conduct assemblies in a dignified and respectful way. We tell children that assembly time is a period of calm reflection. We regard it as a special time and expect children to behave in an appropriate manner. We ask them to be quiet and thoughtful and to listen carefully.

Our assemblies also reflect the achievements and learning of the children. We encourage children to participate by holding Celebration Assemblies led by the Deputy Head to which parents, carers and other relatives are invited. These assemblies also provide an opportunity to reward children for their achievements both in and out of school and to celebrate them together. They also play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school - that all children and their achievements are valued.

Assemblies are conducted by members of teaching staff and once a week by a visiting member of the local clergy. Sometimes they are led by visitors to the school e.g. the GenR8 team from local churches, charities. Children will also be encouraged to lead assemblies.

Assemblies are planned around themes. Themes are values based which allow for flexibility and variety of delivery and will also include the major religious and cultural festivals. Themes from SEAL (Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning) will also be embedded.

For Harvest Festival, Christingle and Easter the assemblies are held in the local Parish Church (Kennett) or in the school (The Shade). Parents and carers are often invited to attend. All staff will be encouraged to attend the weekly assembly led by the visiting clergy and those held in the Parish Church. Any requests to be excused if they do not wish to participate will be accepted.

## **Right of Withdrawal from Collective Worship**

Every effort is made to show sensitivity towards personal faiths and to include all pupils and staff in collective worship. For example when using a prayer from a particular faith, this is introduced with sensitivity and pupils are not required to say or affirm prayers in which they do not believe. There may be parts of an assembly, for example when a Christian hymn is sung, in which a pupil does not wish to participate. It is perfectly acceptable to withdraw from a part of the assembly by not participating.

A parent may make a request for their child/children to be wholly or partly excused from attendance at religious worship at school.



## **The Contribution of Collective Worship to the Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development of Pupils**

One of the key aims of collective worship is to offer pupils opportunities for spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

*Spiritual Development* is promoted by:

- the celebration of special achievements
- guided reflection
- consideration of a variety of beliefs, values and feelings
- appreciation of aspects of life which have special meaning and which contribute to a sense of awe and wonder

*Moral Development* is promoted by:

- consideration of moral codes found in school, in religions and in society
- consideration of relationships
- encouraging empathy by the consideration of moral issues from different perspectives

*Social Development* is promoted by:

- coming together as a school / class group
- bringing visitors into school from the community
- sharing values and matters of concern

*Cultural Development* is promoted by:

- using music, art, drama, story and artefacts from a range of cultural backgrounds
- exploring and celebrating aspects of religion and culture

## **Monitoring, Evaluation and Review**

It is the role of the Advisory Body to monitor and review the policy and practice of collective worship in the school. The school will review this policy every three years and report annually to the governing body on its implementation and effectiveness. The policy will be promoted and implemented throughout the school.