



Staindrop Church of England Primary School Collective Worship Policy

Our vision is founded on St Luke's Parable of the Sower. We are the rich soil that enables our children to develop deep roots and flourish. We aim to ensure that everyone grows to fulfil their potential. Our school provides an environment rooted in Christian values where learning, laughter and friendship are at the heart of everything we do.

Through God's love, we are the rich soil where roots grow and seeds flourish.

Luke 8:4-15

September 2026 27

Introduction

Collective Worship at Staindrop Church of England Primary School takes place daily in accordance with provisions of the School Standards and Framework Act, 1998.

The staff and governors of Staindrop C.E. Primary School see the main purpose of the school is that of providing a high standard of education, both academic and social, in a Christian context, ensuring that this provision is made available to all of its pupils. It is an important aim of the school to nurture a sense of personal worth for all its pupils through encouraging them to do their best in order to fulfill their individual potential; recognition of effort, attitude and commitment being as worthy of merit as high levels of achievement.

Aims

- To enable pupils to explore and respond to a variety of forms of worship, thus allowing those pupils with a religious commitment to deepen their experience of worship, and those without a religious commitment to begin to appreciate
- To explore and share the belief of others
- To enable pupils to approach the threshold of worship by fostering in them an attitude characterised by feelings such as humility, awe, wonder, appreciation, thankfulness, respect, reverence and elation.
- To allow children opportunities to experience and appreciate the use of symbolism and religious language to express feelings and belief.
- To enable pupils to consider spiritual and moral issues and the questions these raise in their lives and the lives of others.
- To enable pupils to make use of silence as a time for reflection, contemplation, meditation and, if appropriate, prayer.
- To encourage respect and care for God's creation.
- To acknowledge the things which have meaning, value and purpose for the pupils as individuals, as well as for the school and the wider community.
- To develop a sense of community within and beyond the school.
- To celebrate achievements, special occasions and special events in relation to individual pupils within school, to the school as a whole, or to the wider community.
- To acknowledge, respect and celebrate difference and diversity.

Definition

Collective worship and assembly are not the same, although worship may be part of an assembly. Collective worship is defined as worship appropriate to a group of individuals possessing a range of beliefs, believers and non-believers.

Collective worship at Staindrop C.E. Primary School will take place daily. Styles may vary from day to day though it is intended that the various forms will together promote the spiritual and moral development of pupils.

The daily act of collective worship will be "wholly of a broadly Christian character,"

Whilst acknowledging the desirability to show respect and regard for other religions. As an Anglican Foundation, collective worship at Staindrop C.E. Primary School has a Christian orientation.

Expectations of pupils:

During Collective Worship pupils will be given opportunities for:

- individual response and reflection
- listening and thinking about the world, themselves and others;
- introducing pupils to the use of symbolism and religious language to express feelings and beliefs;
- sharing in experiences of e.g. sadness, excitement, joy, thankfulness,
- togetherness and challenge;
- silence, stillness, mediation, contemplation and, if appropriate, prayer;
- celebration of the shared values in the school community
- to lead and shape worship regularly

Anglican Tradition

As a Church of England Primary School we include the following Christian elements of collective worship:

- Using the Bible, either as a source book, or as an inspiration for themes and stories
- Observing the cycle of the Church's Year -Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, Pentecost, Saints Days
- Learning and saying traditional prayers from a number of sources, in particular the Lord's Prayer and simple responses
- Singing a wide variety of hymns, from traditional to modern
- Experiencing Christian symbols in worship and reflecting on their meaning e.g. cross, crucifix, bread and wine, colours of the church year
- The use of readings, poetry, prayer, silence and reflection
- Using Psalms with simple responses
- Using Anglican sentences and responses e.g.

May the Lord be with you / and also with you

Organisation

In accordance with both our Trust Deed and with the statutory requirements, Collective Worship is organised in Staindrop C.E Primary School at the centre of the school's daily life. Worship is organised and lead by staff, our clergy and involves the pupils whenever appropriate.

Timetable

Each week, Collective worship is centred on the "one big thing". Acts of worship link through this theme and Class worship allows time more reflection for children in a smaller group. Picture news worship is linked to a topical theme in the news each week and contributes to the children's wider understanding of the world, global issues, courageous advocacy and mental well-being.

In our final Celebration Worship each week, members of different classes reflect on the whole weeks worship and share their thoughts/actions with the whole school.

Monday	Whole School Worship led by a range of teaching staff- Big Idea
Tuesday	Whole School Worship planned & led by the worship committee-Roots & Shoots
Wednesday	Linked Class Worship led by teachers/teaching assistants Reflection Books
Thursday	Picture News Worship led by class teachers
Friday	Whole School Celebration Worship led by the Head Teacher Class worship planned and led by each class once a term (Autumn and Spring) Class Celebration Worship led by each class for parents (Summer Term)

Whole School Collective Worship begins at 1.00pm every day.

Reception children are invited to attend whole school worship after their first few weeks in school.

At the time of Worship a candle will be lit as a clear visual focus for the children to reflect upon.

Lunchtime prayers are said in Classes before dismissal for lunch. "End of day" prayers are observed in all classes prior to dismissal at the end of the school day.

Location

Whole school worship takes place in the school hall and in St Mary's Church on special occasions in the Christian calendar (Harvest, Christmas, and Easter). Class worship takes place in classrooms.

Planning

The planning is in line with Diocesan Guidelines on Collective Worship, it follows half termly/termly themes. We plan worship across the week to build on a particular "one big thing" in order for children to deeply reflect on a particular idea. Bible scripture is central to our worship sessions and helps to provide context or examples to support children's understanding of more complex/abstract ideas.

The structure of our collective worship is as follows:

- Gather
- Engage
- Reflect
- Respond

We provide many opportunities throughout the week for children to reflect on the "One big Thing" and to be able to respond through their actions that week.

Resources

These include books, prayers, CDs and an interactive whiteboard. These resources are kept in the head teacher's room and the hall. Music and words may be copied in accordance with Christian Copyright Licence. We use materials from Big Start assemblies, Roots and Shoots and Picture news along with Bible scripture, objects and images on which to base our worship.

The school visits St Mary's Church at Harvest, Christmas and Easter. Year 6 pupils attend the Leavers' Service in Durham Cathedral to share worship with other Diocesan schools; this is led by the Diocesan Board of Education.

The worship Committee

We have a school worship committee made up of pupil volunteers from all year groups. Their role is to lead and develop collective worship each week, plan prayer space events/days, set up and monitor our prayer spaces in the church and around school and to help evaluate collective worship across school.

Entitlement

At Staindrop C.E. Primary School, we believe that collective worship is an important part of every child's spiritual development and all pupils regardless of race, gender, physical or academic ability are entitled to participate. Every attempt is made, therefore to ensure that materials used are appropriate to a range of abilities and interests.

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

Collective Worship at Staindrop C.E. Primary School is totally inclusive. All ages and abilities are provided for in planning and delivery of Collective Worship.

Equal Opportunities

Our school worship is about sharing what is meaningful and significant in our lives. It is about sharing common concerns and responsibilities and developing positive attitudes and values. It is about affirming the equality of each individual in God's sight, whatever a child's gender, ethnicity, physical or mental ability.

Right of Withdrawal

The main aim of Collective Worship at Staindrop C.E. Primary School is for it to be meaningful and relevant for all pupils and staff; for those with faith, and for those with none.

It is therefore hoped that parents will not exercise the right they have to remove their child from Collective Worship, but we acknowledge the right that they have to remove their child without any explanation. Any child who is withdrawn from an act or acts of Collective Worship will be supervised during that time by a member of the school staff.

Teachers have the right to withdraw from collective worship, as a Controlled School, however it is expected that teachers will take part in worship.

The contribution of Collective Worship to Aspects of the Curriculum

Collective worship can contribute to all other areas of the curriculum, enriching class work, providing different perspectives, promoting thought and understanding and encouraging of further study.

Assessment and Review/Evaluation

The acts of worship will be evaluated by the head teacher, collective worship leader, governors, staff and children on a regular basis. Worship will be monitored to ensure that:

- Agreed and planned content is being covered
- A variety of approaches and methodology are used
- High standards and quality are maintained
- Collective Worship has been led by a variety of staff
- Evaluation of parent and pupils reactions

Members of the Governing Body are periodically invited to attend Collective Worship and contribute towards evaluation. Pupils are audited to ascertain their views on the worship provided in school. They are given feedback and their thoughts and ideas are adopted where possible.

Special Occasions

Harvest Festival

- Whole School along with parents/families
- Date decided by Collective Worship Leader and Vicar of St Mary's Church
- Held in St Mary's Church
- All pupils take part
- Display by pupils in St Mary's Church
- Order of Service prepared by Music Subject Leader and Worship Leader

Early Years Nativity

- Early Years along with parents/families
- Key Stage 1 and 2 pupils are invited to watch
- Takes place one afternoon and evening in the final two weeks of term
- Held in school

Key Stage 1 Nativity

- Key Stage 1 along with parents/families
- Early Years and Key Stage 2 pupils are invited to watch
- Takes place one afternoon and evening in the final two weeks of term
- Held in school

Carol Service

- Key Stage 2 along with parents/families
- Takes place one evening in the final week of term

- Held in St Mary's Church
- Key Stage 2 pupils lead the service, Key Stage 1 pupils invited to come along with their families
- Order of Service prepared by Music Subject Leader and Worship Leader

Easter Service

- Whole School along with parents/families
- Takes place one evening in the final week of term
- Held in St Mary's Church
- Key Stage 2 pupils lead the service
- Order of Service prepared by Music Subject Leader and Worship Leader

Leavers Service

- Year 6
- Organised by Class teacher
- Held in school
- Parents and rest of school invited to attend

Prayer Spaces

- Termly prayer space activities are set up in classrooms
- Yearly Prayer spaces days are held in the summer term-Governors and community members are invited to attend

Invitations to attend Worship

Owing to the limited space in the school hall, the scope for inviting parents and friends to share in collective worship is less than the school would desire.

- Parents, friends and governors are invited to the Harvest, Christmas and Easter Services at St Mary's Church
- Parents are invited to the Early Years and Key Stage 1 Nativity Plays in the period before Christmas
- Year 6 Parents are invited to the Leavers Service at the end of the Summer Term
- Parents are invited to one Class Celebration Worship a year
- Parents and friends of the school are invited to join with us during