



ST STEPHEN'S CEVA PRIMARY SCHOOL, BATH

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

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Prepared by:	Pupil Support Committee	Date:	
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St Stephen's School is a unique community inspired by Christian values, promoting mutual respect, responsible behaviour and encouraging creativity and a joy in learning.

1 INTRODUCTION

The staff and governors of St. Stephen's School see the main purpose of the school as providing a model: a model of lifelong learning, where the highest principles of love and respect are lived out day by day.

We seek to love one another as Jesus loves us.

We seek to provide children with examples of ways of living through our relationships between ourselves and all members of the school community. We know that this core purpose is about how we live and how we relate one to another day by day. No document can provide the service we seek for our children. Jesus set us an example of love that valued everyone for who they are and delighted in our wholeness in all its complexity. We are all God's children and our worship reflects this core belief, as does our entire mission.

Subject to its physical capacity St. Stephen's School welcomes all children from the neighbourhood (according to the criteria laid down in the admissions policy for the school) if their parents seek an education in a Christian context. This welcome applies whether the family holds a faith of whatever nature or no faith at all.

We follow the recommendations of the Diocesan Board of Education requirements of the Education Reform Act of 1988 and also recent legislation related to collective worship (DfES circular 1/94)

2 RATIONALE

In accordance with our Trust Deed and with statutory requirements, Collective Worship in our school is placed at the centre of the school's daily life. Worship is organised on a Phase 1 and 2, whole year group and class basis and is led by staff, visitors and, of course, the pupils themselves.

3 AIMS

1. To provide the opportunity for staff and children to worship God.
2. To allow us to be nourished and guided by the Holy Spirit, especially through the practice of Contemplative Prayer and Meditation.
3. To allow reflection on the fundamental questions of life both temporal and eternal.



4. To celebrate and share emotions such as joy, hope, friendship, acceptance, anguish, fear, reverence, forgiveness etc.
5. To foster a sense of wonder at the beauty, mystery and power of the world.
6. To provide a time for sharing successes and failures in personal, school and community life.
7. To celebrate the inextricable connection between the Golden Three and the life and teachings of Jesus. That God's intention is that we should flourish and be transformed into all that we can be.
8. To enable our own story to be interwoven with those of others, and thereby to remind ourselves of our common humanity, and journeys with all people.
9. To foster a sense of community and celebration of our school family.

4 ORGANISATION

1. At St. Stephen's we sincerely believe that Collective Worship plays a central role in the life of the school, and addresses the moral, spiritual, social and cultural development of the pupils. It provides an opportunity for pupils to create and participate in shared experiences.
2. We can reassure parents that St. Stephen's School exerts no pressure on children to become worshipping Christians or to take part in any activity that will compromise their own beliefs.
3. However, Christian values are **definitely** built into our ethos and teaching and are reflected in the foci of our daily acts of worship. We consider the example of the life and teachings of Jesus Christ to be our model for living and we consider His message of peace and transcendent love to be relevant for all within our community.

5 DELIVERING COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

1. The process of worship takes place through a variety of media, song, story, drama, music, poetry etc. It takes place through class assemblies as well as adult-led worship time.
2. The context and content for Collective Worship are planned and reviewed regularly by the Head and the Parish Priest of St Stephen's Church.
3. All collective worship is timetabled and is held at different times throughout the week.
4. All staff and pupils currently take part in Collective Worship, a position Governors actively encourage, though the right to withdraw exists and is respected.



5. One of the ways our school fulfils its Christian character is by having services in our local church.

6 SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

The staff and Governors of St. Stephen's School are committed to ensuring that every child in the school will derive some benefit from Collective Worship, whatever their academic ability. Every attempt is made to ensure that materials used are appropriate to a range of abilities, aptitudes and interests.

7 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

Our school worship is about sharing what is meaningful and significant in our lives. It is about sharing our 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.

8 INSTRUMENT OF GOVERNMENT

Recognising its historic foundation, the school will preserve and develop its religious character in accordance with the principles of the Church of England and in partnership with the Church at parish and diocesan level.

The school aims to service its community by providing an education of the highest quality within the context of Christian belief and practice. It encourages an understanding of the meaning and significance of faith, and promotes Christian values through the experience it offers to all its pupils.

9 MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Evaluation strategies currently used by staff for assessing the outcomes of collective worship are:-

- observation of the children's attentiveness and level of interest shown through the sessions;
- classroom feedback from pupils, written and verbal via the school council;
- observation of the children's general behaviour, in and around school and to one another.
- Occasional direct questioning to gauge the children's views.
- Annual Collective Worship questionnaire for staff and pupils.
- Constant reflection and review by priest and head.