St STEPHENS C OF E JUNIOR SCHOOL

Collective Worship Policy

Learning to **Change** the World

'Do **justly**, love **mercy** and walk **humbly** with your God'

Micah 6:8

Review Details:

Next review due:	December 2027
Committee responsible:	ACC
Document location	GovernorHub/School Policies

Version	Approved by	Date approval	Key changes
1.0	FGB	January 2015	
	Community	November 2016	
1.1	Community	December 2018	2.4 added, last aim and objective added
1.2	C&E	December 2020	Added reference to Micah 6:8
1.3	C&E	October 2021	1.1 Changed aims to include reference to ritual in churches
	FGB	November 2023	No changes
	ACC	December 2025	No changes

1 Aims and objectives

1.1 Collective Worship is a time when the whole school comes together to think about different themes. Its purpose is to:

Experience the rituals that are followed in church i.e responding to a Christian welcome, lighting the candles, learning from scripture and joining together to reflect and pray;
Enable pupils to reflect on and question issues such as belonging to the school community, the wider community and to humanity as a whole
Reinforce a sense of community and cohesion through appreciating those things we have in common
Develop a reflective approach to life
Support pupils in the development of spiritual, cultural and moral perspectives.
Develop a sense of the individual's place in the world beyond the physical, material and the here and now
Provide time to consider values and beliefs - both their own and those of others
Raise awareness of difficulties experienced living a life based on values, beliefs and principles which may not be shared by everyone in the wider community
Provide opportunity to celebrate achievement and to share times of celebration
Support students in responding to crisis at a personal and collective level and provide them with a vocabulary to explore feelings and responses
Support those who have particular needs or who are engaged in times of crisis

2 Collective worship

2.1 We understand worship to be a special act or occasion whose purpose is to show reverence

to God. Collective worship involves all members of the school coming together and participating in an assembly. We expect everyone to take an active part in the assembly.

2.2 In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act (Sections 6,7,9,12), which states that collective worship should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character', we normally base our assemblies on the teachings of Christ and the traditions of the Christian Church. We conduct our assemblies in a manner that is sensitive to the faiths and beliefs of all members of the school.

2.3 While most acts of worship in our school are Christian, we also hold assemblies that reflect the traditions of other religions that are represented in the school and the wider community.

2.4 Our Collective Worship reflects and reinforces the school's aims and ethos and supports the school's Mission Statement. It will demonstrate the partnership between the conduct and content of school worship and the ethos of the whole school based on Christian values of Justice, Mercy and Humility taken from Micah 6:8.

3 Organisation of collective worship

3.1 We hold a daily act of collective worship. This forms part of each day's assembly, which can be either a whole-school assembly or a class assembly.

3.2 We conduct collective worship in a dignified and respectful way. We tell children that this time is a period of calm reflection. We regard it as a special time, and expect children to behave in an appropriate way. We ask them to be quiet and thoughtful, to listen carefully to the teachings, and to participate fully in prayer and hymns. We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music, candles and sometimes other objects, to focus the attention of the children.

3.3 Collective worship is normally conducted by the Headteacher or other members of staff, but is sometimes led by local clergy, other representatives of local religious groups and even the children themselves!

3.4 We take the themes of our collective worship from the traditions of the Christian faith or our school values; we observe the festivals and mark the events of the Christian calendar. Sometimes the theme of our collective worship relates to enquiries that we teach as part of the school curriculum. We plan our worship well in advance of the day they take place.

3.5 Our collective worship reflects the achievements and learning of the children. We encourage the children to participate by showing their work to the other children, and by raising issues that they have discussed in their classes. Collective worship provides an opportunity to reward children for their achievements both in and out of school. They also play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school, which is that all children are valued, and all achievements are recognised.

3.6 Each week there is a particular assembly that parent/carers are invited to attend, this is our Celebration assembly. We also encourage parent/carers to attend collective worship when it is led by their child's class or it is a special celebration such as Easter or Diwali. We encourage their attendance, as this promotes community spirit, and shows the school and the homes working together in support of the children's achievements.

3.7 Academy Community Counsellors' attendance at our collective worship is always welcome.

4 Right of withdrawal

4.1 We expect all children to attend collective worship. However, any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from religious worship, and the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during that part of the assembly. Parents do not have to explain or give reasons for their request. This right of withdrawal complies with the 1944 Education Act, and was restated in the 1988 Education Reform Act.

4.2 The Headteacher keeps a record of all children who have been withdrawn from collective worship.

5 Monitoring and review

5.1 Monitoring the policy and practice of collective worship is the role of the Academy Community Council.

5.2 This policy will be reviewed at least every two years.

Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) Part 1: EIA Screening

Policies, Procedures or Practices:	Collective Worship Policy	**DATE:**	November 2023
EIA CARRIED OUT BY:	L Wilson	**EIA APPROVED BY:**	L Wilson

Groups that may be affected:

Are there concerns that the policy could have a different impact on any of the following groups? (please tick the relevant boxes)	Existing or potential adverse impact	Existing or potential for a positive impact
Age (young people, the elderly; issues surrounding protection and welfare, recruitment, training, pay, promotion)		*X*
Disability (physical and mental disability, learning difficulties; issues surrounding access to buildings, curriculum and communication)		**X**
Gender reassignment (transsexual)		**X**
Marriage and civil partnership		*N/A*
Pregnancy and maternity		*N/A*
Racial groups (consider: language, culture, ethnicity including gypsy/traveller groups and asylum seekers)		**X**
Religion or belief (practices of worship, religious or cultural observance, including non-belief)		*X*
Sex (male, female)		*X*
Sexual orientation (gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender; actual or perceived)		*X*

Any adverse impacts are explored in a Full Impact Assessment.