



Collective worship policy

The aims and purpose of collective worship are:

- To promote an understanding of worship
- To provide an opportunity for children to worship God
- To enable children to consider spiritual and moral issues
- To enable children to explore their own beliefs
- To encourage participation and response
- To develop in children a sense of community spirit
- To promote a common ethos, with shared values, and to reinforce positive attitudes

Collective Worship

Worship is understood to be a special act or occasion whose purpose is to show reverence for God.

In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act, which states that collective worship should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character', times of collective worship at Stanground St John's reflect the traditions and festivals of the Christian church and the teachings of Jesus. However, assemblies are always conducted in a manner that is sensitive to the faith and beliefs of all members of the school. At times elements from other faiths will be used.

Organisation of Collective Worship

At Stanground St John's a program of is followed, using Ely Diocese guidance. Assemblies reflect the achievements and learning of the children. The children are encouraged to participate. We hold a celebration assembly every week which provides an opportunity to reward children for their achievements both in and out of school. At regular intervals parents, governors and volunteers are encouraged to join Collective Worship. These acts of Worship have become a feature of Stanground St John's community.

Collective worship is conducted in a respectful way. The children are quiet and thoughtful, and encouraged to participate fully in every aspect of the worship. The children sit in the hall and an appropriate atmosphere is created by using music and by a cross and candle which is lit at the beginning of the worship. Other resources are used during the act of worship to encourage reflection including poetry, real life stories, children's work or role play.

We meet as a school or in family units on a daily basis usually at the start of the day. Assembly varies in style, content and participation but all contain an act of Collective Worship.

Monday 9:10-9:30	Head teacher assemblies - Explicit teaching of messages using stories, linking into Christian festivals and special days. They are chosen using guidance from the Ely diocese. Sometimes they may relate to particular events in school.	Led by the Head teacher
Tuesday 9:10-9:30	SEALs assembly - develops the theme for the half term, linking in with our PSHE/ SEALs curriculum. Focussing on social development and understanding of others.	Led by teachers on a rota basis
Wednesday 9:10-9:30	Visitors / House / Buddies assembly - we sometimes have visitors who lead our Collective worship such as Reverend Betson of Captain Beverly. Alternatively we hold family group gatherings led by teachers.	Led by visitors / shared by teachers
Thursday 9:10-9:40	Singing assembly - children learn hymns which praise God. The words are explained and their meaning explored. The hymns are often chosen in themes.	Led by the RE & Music coordinator
Friday 10:00-10:35	Celebration assembly - children's achievements are recognised and celebrated in our whole school gathering. It emphasises the community and individual achievements and how we use our God given gifts.	Led by the Head teacher or Deputy

There are occasions when we have services in church, for Harvest, Christmas or Easter, for example. We also sometimes have visitors from Charities; they will then lead the assembly.

Right of withdrawal

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.