

# Slaithwaite CE J & I School



## Collective Worship Policy

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## **Policy for Collective Worship**

### **Aims**

At Slaithwaite CE School we promote the aims and ethos of our school through daily acts of Collective worship. Collective worship is important to the life of the school and to its religious character. It fosters a sense of community within our school, and creates an awareness of belonging to a wider community, both locally and globally.

We offer quality time for the reflection and affirmation of Christian values and principles, and for the promotion of spiritual, moral, cultural and religious development.

We celebrate the uniqueness of each individual and encourage respect and tolerance for all regardless of race, age, gender, ability or disability.

### **Legal requirements**

The school holds a daily act of collective worship for all pupils, but recognizes the right of parents to request that their child is withdrawn. Currently we have no withdrawals from worship.

If such requests are made, we would ensure adequate supervision, with appropriate work provided.

The right of staff to request withdrawal is also respected.

## Management

Monday	Whole School	Mrs Bradley
Tuesday	Whole School	Mrs Bradley
Wednesday	Whole School	Mrs Bradley/Local Clergy/Miss Millward
Thursday	Class Assemblies	In Classrooms
Friday	Whole School	Mrs Bradley

(Our Induction procedures for new pupils provide for flexibility for our youngest children to be gradually integrated into whole school assemblies).

Assemblies are mainly of a broadly Christian character, with whole school assemblies taking place in the hall. The hall is multi-functional, but we do aim to create a pleasant environment for worship through the use of music, artifacts as a focal point and children seated in 'horse shoe rows, we sit in class groups and also at certain times children are able to choose where they sit. The older children take responsibility for the preparation of the hall organizing the music, overhead projector etc. after liaising with Mrs Bradley.

Assemblies led by Mrs Bradley, Miss Millward and other staff, have a theme, developed over a period of weeks to provide continuity and progression and are planned according to guidance from the Wakefield Diocese, School Development plan, Kirklees LA and the schools PSHE policy. See Collective Worship file in Headteacher's office and school website.

A half termly overview of worship is given to all staff and the children and a copy kept in the worship file.

Collective worship is evaluated every term by the leadership team. Children are also involved in this evaluation and action points included in the policy file.

On Fridays we have a Well Done assembly to reflect upon and celebrate the good things that have happened during the week (good work, good behaviour,

good manners, kindness, helpfulness and present certificates). Parents are invited to join this worship. This is held in the morning to give a positive ending to the week. All other acts of Collective Worship are held in the early part of the morning.

A variety of styles are used, as appropriate to the theme, groupings of children, etc., and visitors are invited from time to time to lead or share worship. Parents and Governors also share our worship.

We have strong links with the local Anglican church with the members.

Worship is generally held in the hall and we use a range of strategies to create a calm and thoughtful atmosphere to establish a special time. These strategies include the use of music, candles, pictures/posters/artefacts. The children usually engage in singing, praying, listening to a story, discussing an issue, drama, poetry etc.

Some resources are kept in the cupboard in the hall, with additional items borrowed from BOOKS PLUS as appropriate. We also use the overhead projector, music on CD and audio cassette, DVD, radio etc as appropriate.

Children plan and lead worship on occasions. Examples of these can be found in the collective worship file. The planning of worship fully takes into account the children's views and where possible worship is planned to match these.

## The School as a Church School

We have clear aims and an ethos statement which reflects the religious character of the school, and we hope that these are evident in the everyday activities of the school, with positive relationships at all levels to promote a caring atmosphere and a valuing of all people.

We have strong links with our local church, St. James's and the parishoners.

Staff, pupils, parents and Governors also visit Church for the celebration of festivals (Easter, Harvest, Christmas), and for special occasions such as the Bishops commissioning service. We also join the other two schools in the neighbourhood for joint choirs and services. Our staff and children take part in Sunday Worship at St. James's and sometimes lead the service.

We usually donate our Harvest gifts to the church; fresh produce to the Friendship Group and tinned or dried goods to Christian African Relief Trust. Groups of children also visit the Friendship Groups Luncheon club to sing at Harvest and Christmas Time.

The children take part in appeals for the Diocese and join with it's work.

We have a school prayer written by the children which is displayed in the hall and classrooms.

A Christian ethos permeates our school behaviour policy, which is designed to promote positive behaviour and which involved all staff, Governors, parents and pupils in its formulation. It is aimed at fostering the self-esteem of pupils and encouraging forgiveness and a 'new start'.

Each class has 'circle time' where they can discuss any aspect of school life.

Our school council work to promote Christian values and contribute greatly to our school ethos. They support all children and adhere to a positive code of conduct.

**Policy Reviewed: February 2017**

**Interim Review: March 2018**

