



STONE LODGE SCHOOL

Collective Worship Policy

Date Drafted	November 2023
Date Agreed with Governors	November 2023
Date to be reviewed	November 2024

Monitoring, Evaluation and Review

The Governing Body will review this policy at least annually and assess its implementation and effectiveness. The policy will be promoted and implemented throughout the School.



Stone Lodge school has our key school values. These are Respect, Integrity, Determination, Equality Self-Management. As well as this, we aim to promote Social, Moral, Spiritual and Cultural growth in a wide-ranging and thoughtful way by ensuring that the ethical values of openness, honesty, social responsibility and caring for others are integral; these values and principles underpin all our actions.

Stone Lodge's School believes that collective worship both supports and strengthens what we aim to do in every aspect of school life. Our caring ethos and the values we place on the development of the whole child; spiritually, morally, socially, culturally, and intellectually is reflected in our worship. We value this time in the school day, as form time and assembly, for the space it gives to pupils to develop a reflective approach to life and the ability to express their reflections in traditionally religious ways or any other appropriate manner.

It is a legal requirement that the school provides a daily act of collective worship for all pupils. The regulations are set out in The Education Act 1944 as amended by The Education Reform Act 1988.

The Act states that collective worship organised by the school is to be "wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character". For those acts that are broadly Christian, the main emphasis should be on the broad traditions of Christian belief. The Education Reform Act 1988: Religious Education and Collective Worship (para. 34)

To align with the school's values Religious Education has been relabelled as 'Philosophy and Ethics' and SMSC has a dedicated lesson in the curriculum known as 'Successful Lives.'

Aims:

Collective worship at Stone Lodge's is intended to provide a caring and supportive environment for pupils to:

- Become increasingly aware of themselves, as individuals, and of others within the school and wider community
- Gain, and grow in, understanding of the feelings of others
- Gain knowledge, and explore the use of language that others use to express themselves
- Deepen their sense of wonder of the world in which we live
- Respond freely to religious and/or spiritual stimulus
- Acknowledge diversity and difference
- Promote co-operative and school values

Practice:

At Stone Lodge's, we combine our collective worship with Assemblies and Form time activities, helping to ensure that collective worship takes place within a broad educational framework. Assemblies are held weekly, with other form time activities happening on other days as well as a period of successful lives that each year group attends once a week. This ensures that every child takes an active part in collective worship and the needs of all are met.

Members of the Senior Leadership team, and Middle Leaders lead assemblies in accordance with the collective worship theme of the week; this also links into the form time activities ensuring continuity and cohesiveness. Pupils are encouraged to take an active part in both planning and leading collective worship at certain times of the year.

The school is committed to an active and evolutionary approach to collective worship in the belief that it is a significant element in our attempts to provide a broad and balanced curriculum for all. In this context collective worship assumes its rightful importance and reflects the ethos of our school; this being one which is inclusive, co-operative, empathetic and aware of the needs of all. We as a school are fully committed to ensuring the social, moral, spiritual and cultural beliefs of all are met. This includes taking into consideration those who may have religious affiliations, and those, who do not.

A particular act of collective worship might focus on one or more of the following objectives:

1. Sharing of Individual experience about living in and responding to the world
2. Enriching the lives of all participants through affording the opportunity to learn about the insights, beliefs and practices of people within the Community.
3. Fostering a high regard for a searching for Truth based on reason and evidence
4. Encouraging a sensitivity to questions and answers which prompt reflection and enquiry to what lies beyond the visible
5. Widening the emotional responses of children and deepening their ability to be sensitive to sincerely held spiritual beliefs
6. Providing a means whereby pupils can begin to and continue to understand the language and nature of Worship
7. Enabling children to explore their own beliefs in relation to those of others
8. Exploring the developing relationship between a human being and a Supreme being
9. Providing an opportunity to develop the human spirit

10. Exploring and sharing in, as appropriate, the spiritual and religious experience of those who worship as members of a faith

11. Providing the opportunity to celebrate the values and worth of the school community

Arrangements:

The Assistant Head Teacher, with responsibility for **recognition and community**, in addition Senior Staff plans the day-to-day provision of collective worship.

On one day of the week pupils, attend year collective worship in the main hall through the medium of an assembly focussing on cultural and moral themes.

Roles and Responsibilities:

- It is the overall responsibility of the Head Teacher to ensure acts of collective worship are effective, fit for purpose and conducted according to school policy
- It is the responsibility of the person conducting the assembly to ensure acts of collective worship and reflection are carried out and that the presentation is reflective of the assembly theme of the week. However, within the legal framework and theme suggestions, staff conducting collective worship are free to employ whatever format that is seen as appropriate. The use of music, drama, video, or visual aids may supplement the more traditional elements of talks, readings, hymns, and prayers. Imagination and careful preparation are essential if pupils are to broaden their horizons and be led to reflect on fundamental human issues.
- It is the responsibility of the form tutor, or staff member escorting a form group, to accompany and remain with the tutor group throughout collective worship to assist with supervision. In the event of collective worship over-running into lesson time, which should not be a frequent occurrence, staff may leave whilst proceedings continue.
- Guest speakers are a frequent and integral part of collective worship at Stone Lodge's and, as such, should be treated with respect. It is the responsibility of the pupil to ensure that their behaviour, when in assembly, is beyond respectful, considerate and beyond reproach.

Special days and acts of remembrance:

Seasonal events are marked by special acts of collective worship e.g. Christmas, Diwali, Eid, and Remembrance Day. Assemblies should recognise the importance of such events to the school and wider community, encouraging inclusion, cultural diversity and encouraging empathy. Imagination and careful preparation are essential if pupils are to broaden their horizons and be led to reflect on fundamental human issues.

Dissemination:

The policy is shared with staff. Parents are advised of school policies and have access to said documents via the schools' website. In line with school policy, we endeavour to give all staff and pupils equal opportunities regardless of gender, race, ability, age, or social background.

Monitoring and Evaluation:

Members of the Senior Leadership Team are required to monitor delivery of assemblies and Form Time Activities on a termly basis.