

# SOUTH HAMS FEDERATION COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

Loddiswell, Modbury and Stokenham Area Primary Schools

Approved: 22.01.18

Review January 2021

We define collective worship at Loddiswell, Modbury and Stokenham Area Primary Schools as being worship which reflects the broad traditions of Christian belief. We believe that collective worship should provide children with the opportunity to be part of a daily experience which is special and separate from other daily activities. We believe that collective worship has the potential to unite the whole membership of the school and therefore to develop a sense of community. Collective worship is part of Loddiswell, Modbury and Stokenham Area Primary Schools contribution to promoting the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of every child.

Aims of collective worship:

- providing the opportunity for children to worship God
- creating experiences which recognise the integrity and dignity of all members of the school
- developing a sense of community spirit, promoting a common ethos and shared values and reinforcing positive attitudes
- encouraging participation and response whether through active involvement in the presentation of worship or through listening or joining in the worship offered
- stimulating the possibility of a person's inward reflection

Worship at Loddiswell, Modbury and Stokenham Area Primary Schools is not:

- distinctive of any particular Christian denomination
- used as a way of enforcing religious ideals and beliefs

## **Statutory Requirements**

Collective worship at Loddiswell, Modbury and Stokenham Area Primary Schools complies with the legal requirements as set out in the 1988 Education Reform Act. The law states the 'Collective worship must be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian Character which means that it reflects the broad traditions of Christian belief'.

At Loddiswell, Modbury and Stokenham Area Primary Schools we recognise that collective worship needs to be flexible enough to encompass the age, aptitude and background of all the children in the school.

## **Collective Worship and Assembly**

Collective worship and assemblies are not the same thing but it is usual for an act of worship to take place during an assembly, either as a small part or its entirety.

An assembly is a gathering of part or all of the school. It is concerned with administrative matters and other announcements about school life, although in practice it is more than that. It is of the utmost importance that collective worship is seen to be distinct from those parts of the assembly that are concerned solely with administration.

## **Implementation**

At Loddiswell, Modbury and Stokenham Area Primary Schools a wide range of people are encouraged to lead collective worship. Staff are encouraged to take an active role in leading. Governors, faith community members and other community groups are encouraged to be involved when and where appropriate, either by occasional participation or by specific invitation.

At Loddiswell and Modbury Primary Schools there will be an act of collective worship for the whole school every day.

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There will be an act of collective worship daily at Stokenham Area Primary School. Typically the format will be:

Monday	Whole School Assembly
Tuesday	Separate Key Stage Assemblies
Wednesday	Separate Key Stage Assemblies
Thursday	Separate Key Stage Assemblies
Friday	Whole School Celebration Assembly

At the end of theme weeks we may hold a special Parent and Governors Celebratory Assemblies where each Class contributes.

## **Withdrawal of Pupils from Collective Worship**

The main aim of collective worship at Loddiswell, Modbury and Stokenham Area Primary Schools is for it to be meaningful and relevant to all pupils and staff, for those with a faith background and those with none. It is therefore hoped that few parents will feel that they have to remove their child from collective worship as this breaks the unity of the school.

Parents do, however, have the right to withdraw their child without any explanation. As a school we pride ourselves on good communication with parents and actively encourage dialogue concerning collective worship so that misunderstanding and confusion as to its nature can be avoided. Teachers also have the right to withdraw.

The Executive Headteacher is not responsible for providing alternate worship but does ensure that these children have adequate supervision.

## **Equal opportunities and Special Needs**

The staff and Governors at Loddiswell, Modbury and Stokenham Area Primary Schools are committed to ensuring that every child in the school will derive some benefit from collective worship, whatever their gender, ethnicity, physical or mental abilities. Every attempt is made, therefore, to ensure that materials used are appropriate to a range of abilities, aptitudes and interests and reflect the multicultural society we live in.

## **Monitoring and Evaluation**

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

- a) observation of the children's attentiveness and level of interest shown during the sessions
- b) classroom feedback from pupils, written and verbal
- c) parents' comments, written and verbal
- d) observation of the children's general behaviour in and around the school and to one another.