

North Stainley CE Primary School

Collective Worship Policy



As a Church of England School collective worship reflects Christian principles and is in line with the Anglican Foundation of the school. It is approached through experience relating to the environment, events, seasons and festivals which are relevant to the children.

1 Aims and purpose

1.1 The aims and purpose of collective worship are:

- 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;
- to teach children how to worship.

2 Collective worship

Collective Worship makes a major contribution to upholding the religious character and Christian distinctiveness of our church school and we aim to ensure that it is understood and owned by all pupils, staff and governors. The importance of worship is central to the life of the school.

Collective Worship should be of the highest quality, engaging participants and it should aim to inspire pupils and staff, enabling spiritual growth. It should provide opportunity for everyone in the school to participate; this includes the chance for pupils to lead worship.

There need to be opportunities to:

- pray and express praise and thanksgiving to God;
- reflect on the attributes of God;
- reflect on the teachings of Christ;
- affirm Christian values and attitudes;
- foster respect and unity;
- share each other's joys and challenges;
- celebrate special times in the Christian Calendar;
- deepen spiritual awareness and reflection.

Collective Worship should have an effect upon the thinking and day-to-day actions of the whole school community outside of the act of Collective Worship

itself, impacting upon school life and on the daily lives of the members of the school community outside school.

‘Inspiring children to be the best they can be’

It is a time where we come together to share our love of God and celebrate our achievements together. The worship of the school is based on promoting the Christian values which permeate the ethos of the school. As such, the contributions of staff, pupils, church clergy and other visitors are valued highly.

These values are embodied in the New Commandment that Jesus gave us:

John 13:34-35

“...love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another, then everyone will know that you are my disciples”.

We also actively seek to encourage the attitudes of awe, wonder and reflection.

- 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, 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. However, 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 of the wider community and globally.

3 Organisation of collective worship

Organisation

We aim to provide a variety of worship experiences for the children. Our current schedule is as follows:

Monday – in class worship led by children or class teacher.

Tuesday – Worship in church led by a member of the clergy

Wednesday – Open the Book Bible based assemblies led by the headteacher

Thursday – Child led assemblies

Friday- Celebration Worship – parents invited to join us and share lunch at least twice per half term.

In addition to this, visiting groups and individuals are welcomed into the **school regularly to lead worship.**

- 3.1 We hold a daily act of collective worship. This is either in church, in class or in the village Hall.

- 3.2** We conduct collective worship in a dignified and respectful way. We tell children that worship 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 prayers and hymns. We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music, and candles or other objects, to focus the attention of the children.
- 3.3** The worship is led by the children, staff, members of the clergy or visiting adults..
- 3.4** We take the themes of our worship from the traditions of the Christian faith, and we observe the festivals and mark the events of the Christian calendar. Sometimes the themes of our worship are related to topics that we teach as part of the school curriculum. A half term plan for Collective Worship is drawn up to include the Christian Value being worked on and the Global Dimension. There are eight Christian Values that we cover – Justice, Friendship, Resilience, Forgiveness, Hope, Compassion, Respect, Honesty.
- 3.5** We cover a Global Dimension every half term, which encourages an understanding and tolerance of the wider world. These are –Global Citizenship, Diversity, Conflict, Sustainable development, Interdependence and Human Rights.
- 3.6** At least twice a half term there is a family celebration worship that families are invited to attend. We also invite them to lunch on these days and the local community are invited this promotes community spirit, and shows the school and families working together in support of the children's achievements.
- 3.7** We want all our children involved in acts of Worship and have a Collective Worship team to lead this area in school.
- 3.8** Our aim is to ensure children develop an understanding of liturgy and Anglican practices. We do this by following some of these practices and using and discussing the colours of the Liturgical year.
- 3.9** We aim to develop our children's spirituality and prayer. We encourage them to use prayer in their daily lives, indoors and outdoors.
- 3.10** The children lead an opening ritual based around the Trinity. The children wrote a school prayer which is said regularly. The Lord's Prayer is said often in worship.

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.

5 Monitoring and review

5.1 The headteacher, children and governors review collective worship to ensure continuous improvement. The headteacher is responsible for monitoring and reporting to the governors.

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