



NETHERAVON ALL SAINTS C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL

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SP4 9PJ

Collective Worship Policy

Date Approved:	22 September 2016
Date of Review:	September 2017
Signed:	File copy signed
Position:	Chair of Governors

Rationale

The School Collective Worship Policy reflects and reinforces the school's aims and ethos and demonstrates the partnership between the conduct and content of school worship and the ethos of the whole school based on Christian values.

At Netheravon All Saints C of E Primary School we consider Collective Worship to be a significant educational activity that both reflects and explores the school's distinctive Christian character and contributes to the academic achievement, personal development and well-being of all learners.

Collective Worship at our school is a time when staff and children meet together and have the opportunity to reflect on the non-material dimensions of our lives together in the school community and as individuals. It is not regarded simply as a time to exchange information or deal with organisational issues. It is therefore important that wherever possible, one member of staff per class attends Collective Worship.

Collective Worship at Netheravon All Saints C of E Primary School will:

- be inspirational and inclusive. It should engage all learners and they should be able to talk about the impact it makes on their relationships and on life in the school
- regularly include Biblical material and Christian teaching which further explores and relates to the school's core Christian values
- have a strong focus on God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit enabling all learners to embark on an understanding of the Trinity
- help all learners to understand Anglican and other Christian traditions found in the UK and worldwide.
- challenge all learners of all backgrounds to understand and embark on their own spiritual journey. They should understand the value of prayer, reflection and stillness
- contribute significantly to pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development by providing all learners with "something more than the obvious, something to wonder at, something to respond to"
- be an opportunity to celebrate and give thanks for achievements within the school, local and international community and occasions of significance, including festivals

Collective Worship should be an experience that does not offend the integrity of the non-religious or those of different faith.

The positive educational outcomes of Collective Worship at Netheravon All Saints C of E Primary School include opportunities for:

- the whole community to celebrate
- sharing and experiencing differences
- developing a culture of learning
- building a sense of group identity
- encouraging a sense of personal and social responsibility
- a break from the busyness of life (for stillness and quiet)
- learning how to behave in a large social group
- exploring feelings and emotions
- learning how to perform in front of an audience

- learning how to respond to a performance
- making visible the school's leadership
- developing inner awareness

We give children the opportunity to develop spiritually in the gathering together for Collective Worship to praise the awe and wonder of God and the beauty of the world God has created; to pray together, to learn about the teachings of both the Old and New Testament with particular emphasis on the teachings of Jesus.

Children are given the opportunity to consider what is important in their lives, about beliefs and values, and application of their beliefs to practical situations in their lives. They are taught to understand and respect the beliefs of other cultures and religions.

Through our Collective Worship we aim to bring an awareness of what it means to be part of a community, which cares for each other, for God and for the environment. In so doing we hope that pupils will develop the ability to explore issues for themselves, be able to reflect upon and learn from experiences and develop a sense of awe and wonder about the wider world whilst understanding their role and responsibilities to their local community.

Legal Requirements

The law requires the Headteacher and Governing Body of every school to provide a daily act of Collective Worship which is in line with the schools Trust Deed and Foundation.

The School meets this requirement and it is explained to all involved in the planning and delivery of acts of worship.

Withdrawal from Collective Worship

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from acts of worship. It is intended that consultation will take place before formal requests are made to withdraw from acts of worship. In the case of parents or teachers contact needs to be made with the Headteacher. Guidance for new parents on non-participation in acts of Collective Worship is available.

Planning a Collective Worship Programme

Specific time is set aside for this activity and we recognise the importance of highlighting the act of Collective Worship from other assembly activities. This will be encouraged by using a candle as a focus, the lighting of which will be a signal that quiet reflection is starting. The Leader will invite the children to respond as follows:

Leader: Come to us this day, O God.

Children: Come to us with light.

Careful planning will ensure worship reflects Anglican heritage by:

- Using the Bible as a source book for inspiration and learning
- Reflecting upon Christian symbols and their use in worship (for example, bread, wine, chalice, cross and crucifix are symbols which lead to an understanding of the meaning of Jesus' death and resurrection)
- Observing the cycle of the Church's year: Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, Pentecost
- Identifying a collection of prayers, hymns and psalms which creates a framework for worship within the school
- Learning traditional responses and prayers which express the essential beliefs of Christians throughout the ages
- Providing the opportunity to discover the value of meditation and silence within the context of Christian worship
- Recognising that the Anglican Church has a strong commitment to ecumenism which may be expressed through the range of visitors who are invited to lead or attend collective worship
- Experiencing the bond of community which encompasses gender, age, race and religious opinions
- Linking with the broad dimensions of the curriculum
- Creating an atmosphere for worship by the use of appropriate music, visual foci and symbols
- Using the whole range of creative arts to appeal to the pupils' imagination

Each person leading worship is expected to plan his or her act of worship with the same degree of thoroughness as any other aspect of their teaching.

The views of pupils about Collective Worship are sought through the Schools Council/Ethos committee. Pupils are encouraged to be involved in the planning, leading and monitoring of Collective Worship in consultation with the class teacher / Headteacher.

The whole school attends Church several times in the year to worship and to reinforce our Church foundation.

Monitoring and Evaluation.

Strategies which staff currently use for assessing the outcomes of Collective Worship include:

- observation of children's reaction and participation during worship.
- feedback from pupils (Worship Crew) - written or verbal.
- observation by Foundation Governors
- observations of the quality of worship by the Headteacher.

Visitors

Visitors should understand the educational aims of Collective Worship at the school and the need to avoid any proselytising. Attempts to persuade pupils to adopt a particular religious or non religious belief are not appropriate. In general the Headteacher is consulted before a visiting

speaker is confirmed. Visitors should not speak about raising money for any particular cause(s) without the prior permission of the Headteacher.

Staff and Community Involvement in Collective Worship

Certain named individuals are involved on a regular basis with the Worship programme. Other staff and pupils are given the opportunity to be involved in this programme every term.

Summary Netheravon All Saints C of E Primary School pattern of worship organisation

The weekly Collective Worship timetable is usually organised as follows:

	Main feature of Worship	Worship usually led by:
Monday	Overview of week + introduction of theme	Headteacher
Tuesday	Further exploration of theme and deepening of understanding	Class teacher by rota
Wednesday	Whole School Worship	Avon River Team (including monthly 'Open the Book' Worship)
Thursday	Celebration: An Act of Worship	Headteacher
Friday	Class Worship (Classrooms)	Class Teachers

Different groups of Year 6 children are responsible for preparing the hall for Collective Worship.