

Norton CEVC Primary School
Collective Worship Policy
Learn Believe Achieve
Hand in Hand with God and each other

Our Vision

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Hand in Hand with God and each other

Our school is a caring Christian community which values every individual member. Our aim is for each child to feel secure and happy at school whilst developing a love of learning. Each child is different and we encourage him or her to take pride in individual achievements and together to strive for excellence. In order to achieve these aims, we believe it is essential for our school to work closely with parents, carers and the community to enable children to become life-long learners and responsible members of society. Our school is a Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School and we value its Christian ethos.

Introduction

As a church school, part of the Christian community, we want to worship. We want our children to have the opportunity to learn to worship and grow in their understanding of God and themselves. We believe that, at its heart, Collective Worship should provide opportunity for pupils and staff to come together, to sing and pray, to share and communicate their feelings with one another and to God.

Aims and purpose

The aims and purpose of collective worship are:

- ✓ to provide an opportunity for the 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 encourage children to become global citizens

Collective Worship in Voluntary Controlled Schools

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.

Our programme of worship reflects the school's religious character and is 'clearly Christian'. We base our assemblies on the teachings of Christ and traditions of the Anglican Church. However, we conduct our assemblies in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs of all members of the school.

Organisation of collective worship

We hold a daily act of collective worship in our school, which is normally a whole-school assembly.

We conduct our worship in a dignified and respectful way. We tell children that Collective Worship time is a period of calm reflection. We regard it as a special time and expect children to act in an appropriate way. We ask them to be quiet and thoughtful and to listen carefully to the teachings and join in/ contribute as appropriate. Children are invited to participate in songs and prayers. We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music, candles, images from the digital projector and other objects that act as a focal point for the attention of the children. Children are involved in leading parts of or whole assemblies (gathering, sending, music, prayers)

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Joshua 1:9

A member of staff, pupils, local clergy or other representatives of local religious groups conduct assemblies.

Our worship is based upon our Christian vision and values. Festivals and events of the Church of England calendar are included on the long-term planner (Appendix 1). Medium term plans are created from this to fit with the school's calendar. Medium term plans are written by the Collective Worship lead and the worship team. Each act of worship is linked to our vision or Christian values.

Our 'Learn, Believe, Achieve' assembly reflects the achievements and learning of the children. It offers an opportunity to acknowledge and reward children for their achievements both in and out of schools. They play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school.

Reflective Circle assemblies are held half termly, in groups of about 30 mixed age children and led by a member of the Worship Team. They provide all children to reflect on the value of the half term.

We invite parents/ carers to class assemblies on a yearly basis and we encourage them to attend, as this promotes the community spirit of the school and is a practical demonstration of the way the home and the school work together to support the achievements of our children.

We welcome governors' attendance at our assemblies at any time.

Day	Type	Leader	Staff Required
Monday	Worship through song and introduction to the week	Music Coordinator	Head teacher
Tuesday	Values focus	Community visitor or teacher	Teachers and TAs as per timetable
Wednesday	Global Citizen assembly	Teacher or pupils	Teachers and TAs as per timetable
Thursday	Open the Book	Open the Book/ Teacher	Teachers and TAs as per timetable
Friday	Learn, Believe, Achieve	Head teacher or pupils	All staff

Worship Team

A group of upper key stage two children meet with the Collective Worship coordinator weekly. The children have a chance to review children's evaluations, contribute to displays, planning and help to promote the school Christian values.

Anglican Faith and Practice

We seek to provide acts of Collective Worship that reflect the faith and practice of the Church of England. Our worship is:

- **Biblical:** The children learn Bible stories through Open the Book assemblies. Bible stories are also chosen to illustrate our Christian values
- **Liturgical:** We use aspects of Anglican liturgy to create a framework for worship – gathering, engaging, responding and sending and through other traditional aspects of liturgy including the Lord's Prayer.
- **Eucharistic:** We hold a Eucharist service at Norton parish church. We encourage the children to give thanks in our daily prayer and reflection time.
- **Seasonal:** We observe the cycle of the Anglican year including celebrations of the major Christian festivals.
- **Symbolic:** We provide opportunities for children to use Christian symbols (cross, candle, ichthus) as a focus for reflection.
- **Ecumenical:** Our visitors who lead Collective Worship represent different Christian denominations.
- **Diverse:** Our Collective Worship reflects the fact that Christianity is a global religion, through the use of songs and music from other cultures.

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Right of withdrawal

We expect all children to attend assembly. However, any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from attending religious worship and the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during the period concerned. Parents do not have to explain or give reasons for this. This complies with the 1944 Education Act and was restated in the 1988 Education Reform Act.

The head teacher keeps a record of any children who withdraw from collective worship.

Monitoring and Review of Collective Worship

Upper key stage two children complete an evaluation form of each assembly (Appendix 2). These forms are reviewed and discussed by the Worship Team.

It is the role of Foundation governors, the Collective Worship leader and Head teacher to monitor the policy and practice of collective worship.

Reviewing this policy

This policy will be reviewed every two years or earlier if necessary.

Signed: Heidi Harris

Date: September 2024

Appendix 1

Collective Worship Long Term Planning

	Value focus	Special Days and Christian Festivals
Autumn 1	Community	Harvest Festival Remembrance Sunday St. Andrews Day Advent Christmas
Autumn 2	Compassion	
Spring 1	Courage	Epiphany Candlemas Lent St David's Day Mothering Sunday Easter
Spring 2	Perseverance	
Summer 1	Wisdom	St Georges Day Ascension Day Pentecost Trinity Sunday
Summer 2	Respect	

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Appendix 2

Date		Leader		Your name							
Worship through Song		Focus on Values		Global Citizens		Open the Book		Learn Believe Achieve			
Wisdom		Compassion		Perseverance		Respect		Community		Courage	
How did it make you feel? What did it make you think about?											
What did it help you understand about Christian beliefs?											
Were the prayers linked to the assembly, current events or our values?											
Will it change anything about the way you act?											
Any other comments?											

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