Newbold Church of England Primary School

At Newbold we aim to support each other to live, work and learn together as a Christian community.

"Therefore encourage one another and build each other up," 1 Thessalonians 5:11

Collective Worship Policy

Collective Worship Co-ordinator: Emma Issitt Date: November 2026
Responsible Governor: Emma Garratt Review date: November 2028

Philosophy

Our Christian ethos is reflected in and expressed through Collective Worship which plays an important part in the life of our school. It is a time in the school day when children meet together with members of staff in a calm and peaceful atmosphere and where all present are given the opportunity to reflect and participate. It is regarded as quality time and represents something special or separate from ordinary school routine.

Legal Requirements

The Trust Deed of the school is unavailable but the legal requirement in Anglican schools is for worship to be consistent with the principles and practices of the Church of England and will therefore be wholly Christian in character.
The 1988 Education Reform Act states that Collective Worship should be part of a broad and balanced curriculum which promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils and society. All maintained schools – including church schools – must provide a daily act of Collective Worship for all registered pupils.

Equal Opportunities

All pupils have equal opportunity to take part in Collective Worship and to benefit from the experience. Parents are aware of their right to withdraw pupils from Collective Worship. Such pupils are supervised in another part of the school. A variety of multicultural material is available in school. Stories are shared and festivals celebrated in school in recognition of the fact that we are living in a multi-faith society. Tolerance, understanding and dialogue with people of all faiths are encouraged.

Aims and Principles

'Collective Worship in schools should aim to provide the opportunity for pupils to worship God, to consider spiritual and moral issues and to explore their own beliefs; to encourage participation and response, whether through active involvement in the presentation of worship or through listening to and joining in the worship offered; and to develop community spirit, promote a common ethos and shared values and reinforce positive attitudes.' (DFEE circular 1/94)

The following principles guide our approach to Collective Worship at Newbold Church of England Primary School.
Collective Worship should:

- have a sense of occasion;
- provide experiences within which pupils' spiritual development is encouraged;
- be a means of expressing the ethos and values of the school;
- be a learning opportunity and contribute to the Religious Education of all pupils;
- be shaped to the needs of the school (time, place, content, style etc.)

- provide a varied pattern of worship to broaden pupils' experience of its different forms, particularly of its' world-wide Anglican heritage;
- recognise that the school includes children from different and non-religious backgrounds.

Objectives

The objectives of Collective Worship are to;
Affirm the Christian faith;
Introduce pupils to the practice of religious worship through music, art, story, poetry, movement and prayer;
Create a warm, caring and respectful atmosphere in assemblies, conducive to worship, including the manner of entry and exit;
Encourage a thoughtful and reflective attitude;
Help pupils experience a sense of awe, wonder, reverence and stillness;
Help pupils appreciate that we are stewards of God's world and show this by actively participating charitable giving;
Enable pupils to learn about Christian teaching;
Enhance pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development;
Guide children towards the religious options open to them;
Help children distinguish between right and wrong;
Affirm pupils' worth and responsibility;
Celebrate individual and collective achievements;
Develop a sense of community within the school;
Celebrate religious festivals and special occasions.
Allow children time to reflect.

Organisation and Content

Whole school assemblies take place every day, Fridays achievement assembly involves parents and the wider community as well as the children. The Headteacher, teachers, church members and visitors all participate in and lead assemblies.

Collective worship follows themes linked to the Liturgical calendar and those suggested by the Diocesan Board of Education. Teachers also plan assemblies in the light of local, national and school events, the school calendar and curriculum and personal inspiration. Specific assemblies celebrate children's academic and social successes. Parents and other members of the community are invited to attend class assemblies and celebrations of the major festivals. Major Christian Festivals are celebrated in St. Mathews Church.

Assemblies constitute a hymn or song, a prayer and usually a short talk which may include some visual aids. Children make significant contributions to school worship through oral responses, participation in short sketches, the presentation of class assemblies. Orderly entry, comfortable conditions and quiet behaviour are expected. Music and a focus objects (usually a candles) encourage silent reflection. Assemblies may be followed up in the classroom during Circle Time and PSHE & Citizenship lessons. Elements of worship are evident throughout the day as staff encourage children to say prayers before meals ad at the end of the day.

Resources

- Songs for Everyday Assembly
- Worship Workshop web site
- Big assemblies
- Songs & hymns used by St Mathews Church
- Diocesan website and links to other web pages for each week's assembly theme

Monitoring and Evaluation

This policy is the responsibility of all teaching staff and is monitored by the co-ordinator for collective worship. Evaluation is carried out through on-going discussion, completion of the diocesan Together in Worship sheet, interviews with pupils and feedback to individual teachers. The responsible governor will formally evaluate collective worship as part of the schools rolling programme and feedback will be given to all staff and governors.