

Newport Junior School Worship and Spirituality Policy

'Learning to make a difference'

The Collective Worship Policy at Newport Junior School pays due regard to statutory requirements and is consistent with the practices and principles of the Church of England. Worship will be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character.'

Definition of Collective Worship

Collective Worship is a time when the whole school, year groups or classes, meet together in order to express praise and thanksgiving to God. It is a time when those with a faith can affirm their Christian values and attitudes. We share our common concerns, issues and interests. It offers all pupils an opportunity to worship through engaging in relevant, meaningful experiences and provides opportunities for the pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

Aims of Collective Worship

During our Acts of Collective Worship we aim:

- To enhance the spiritual development and response of pupils
- To foster reflection, prayer and silence
- To foster an awareness of and a respectful attitude to God
- To foster empathy and imagination, enabling pupils to participate in a variety of ways
- To explore and enjoy praise, prayer, and the rituals of Christianity.
- To affirm the Christian faith and belief in Jesus as Son of God
- To enable pupils to reflect on the experiences of Christians
- To foster and value a search for a faith to live by.
- To learn about and reflect upon Christian Teaching, Biblical material and Christian festivals, in a way that relates to the pupils' experience and to living together in community
- To worship together rather than apart (whilst taking into account the nature of our community, its mix of those with a faith and those without, and those from a different faith background)
- To use the significance and meanings of our Core Christian Values to anchor our worship into clear Christian belief by relating them to Bible stories and readings

The Organisation of Collective Worship

Collective Worship is organised across the week and will usually take place in the school hall, or in one of the classrooms. However, we recognize that Collective Worship can also take place outside too.

Acts of worship will usually last for approximately 15/ 20 minutes, although it is recognized that this time will be shortened or lengthened when it is appropriate.

Day	Group	Leader	Content/ Focus
Monday	Whole School	Headteacher SLT	The content for these acts of worship will be linked to our Core Christian Value.
Tuesday	Whole School	Mrs. Green	Singing Worship- Core Christian Value.
Wednesday Wk 1	Whole School	Rector	Worship linked to the Gospel.
Wednesday Wk 2	Class	Class Teacher Child led	Core Christian Value.
Thursday	Whole School	Headteacher SLT	Celebration. Headteacher Awards. Worship linked to Core Christian Value.
Friday	Whole School	Child led. Class Teachers Child led	Class Assembly to Parents. House Team Meeting

There will be special acts of Collective Worship at points in the year

- Visits to Church
- Harvest
- Christmas
- Easter
- Leavers Service

Planning Acts of Collective Worship

Acts of worship are planned in line with our focus Core Christian Value for the half term. Other areas for worship might be drawn from the Church calendar or from events outside school either locally, nationally or globally.

Our Core Christian Values are:

Compassion	Courage	Forgiveness	Friendship
Generosity	Justice	Perseverance	Respect
Service	Thankfulness	Trust	Truthfulness

There is a half termly focus on one of these Core Values. All Core Values will be shared across a two year rolling programme.

We have used these same Core Christian values to underpin the children's learning as modelled by our Learning Tree, where the Values appear as the skills children use in all their learning in school.

The Act of Collective Worship

Collective Worship is a distinctive part of the school day and a key characteristic of Newport CE Junior School.

A variety of teaching and learning styles; active and interactive methods are appropriate in acts of Collective Worship.

Depending on the setting for worship (hall, classroom, church) worship leaders may choose to use:

- Music to signal the beginning and end of worship
 - A focal point such as a candle, artefact or image on OHP or projector
 - A welcoming or closing phrase with a pupil response
 - Hymns or worship songs
 - A bible reading
 - A period of quiet reflection or prayer
 - Involvement of pupils in leading parts of the worship
- Announcements will be made preceding the act of worship and a clearly defined break between them and the act of worship will be made

Monitoring

Collective worship will be regularly monitored by Foundation Governors. This may take the form of sitting in on acts of Collective Worship as well as talking to pupils. Foundation Governors will provide the SLT with feedback from these conversations.

The Headteacher and Worship Coordinator will use this feedback to further develop worship within the school through the Worship Group or the School Development Plan.

Withdrawal

Any parent who objects to their child attending an act or acts of Collective Worship may request that their child is withdrawn.

Parents are encouraged to discuss this with the Head teacher.

Any pupil who is withdrawn from an act or acts of Collective Worship will be supervised during that time by a member of the school staff.

Statement of Spirituality

Spirituality is:

'Spirituality is like a bird - if held it too tightly it will choke, but if held too loosely it will fly away.

It is not easy to put spirituality into words because it is about unknowable things rather than everyday concerns.'

Spirituality is intangible - the hidden curriculum- dealing with feelings, emotions, responses and interpretations

- ✓ It is subjective
- ✓ Gives a sense of meaning and purpose
- ✓ Encourages a sense of empathy with others
- ✓ Develops a sense of pattern, sequence and order
- ✓ Gives an ability to deal with change
- ✓ Gives a sense of life's joy
- ✓ Gives an appreciation of life's gifts (happiness/ security/ faithfulness/ love/ friendship/caring)
- ✓ Develops a sense of identity, uniqueness and potential
- ✓ Develops a sense of belonging

Spirituality may be developed through time using:

- Awe and wonder
- Reflection
- Stillness
- Inner thought
- Personal response
- Imagination
- Creativity
- Listening to oneself

Spirituality may be recognised in children in these ways:

- A sense of awe and wonder
- Care for nature and living things
- Wanting to love and to be loved by people

We endeavour to foster spiritual growth through:

art	music	poetry	prayer	dance
drama	stillness	quiet	play	circle times
story	display	talk	visits	objects
nature	celebration	questioning	thinking	praising

