****Newport CE Junior School

Worship and Spirituality Policy

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| Date Policy Written and Agreed by Governors: | Date of last review: | Date of next review: |
| Feb 2018 | Sep 2024 | Sep 2026 |

**‘We aspire to ensure that our inclusive, welcoming and loving church school gives children and adults the opportunity to reach their full potential, so that through God’s love they can make a difference to the world around them.’**

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.

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| **Day**  | **Group**  | **Leader**  | **Content/ Focus**  |
| Monday  | Whole School  | ReverendHeadteacher SLT Worship Leader Contributions | The content for these acts of worship will be linked to our Core Christian Value.  |
| Tuesday  | Whole School  | Mrs. Green Mr Rotherham | Singing Worship- Core Christian Value.  |
| Wednesday  | Whole School or Class  | Class Teacher Headteacher/SLTWorship Leader contribution | Core Christian Value.  |
| Thursday  | Whole School  | Headteacher SLT  | Celebration of Values in Action  |
| Friday  | Year group, class or House Teams | Class Teachers Worship Leader Contribution | Beliefs and ValuesPicture News  |

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

* 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 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:

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| Compassion  | Courage  | Community  |

There is a termly focus on one of these Core Values.

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

− 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:

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

Children record elements of their journey in Spiritual Journey books.

For the Language of Spirituality we use The Diocese of Gloucester structure of Wows, Ows and Nows. Children learn to relate to fantastic times, hard times and ordinary times in their dialogue about spirituality.

Across the curriculum Subject Leaders have planned in ‘Spiritual Sparks’ so children are exposed to ‘big questions’ that enable their development.