



'Growing up together in Newtown'

St. George's C of E Academy Newtown

Collective Worship Policy

MISSION STATEMENT

We are a Church of England School with a strong Christian ethos. We do not discriminate between children and treat them all as individuals. We offer a wide range of exciting and educational opportunities to enhance skills, talents and creativity. The school community appreciates and accepts others, and celebrates the achievements of all.

AIMS OF THE SCHOOL

At St. George's C of E Academy Newtown, we want ALL of our children to:

- Have an enthusiasm and thirst for learning
- Have confidence to be themselves and consistently aim high to challenge their potential;
- Have an awareness for the world beyond their own – have respect and understanding of others with circumstances different to their own;
- Explore all opportunities provided to discover their talents and abilities;
- To be kind and respectful members of their community;
- Have embedded morals;
- Have fun, good memories of their school life; • Be inspirational role models.

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Our Christian Vision for our school community
We have chosen the 'Tree of life' as the emblem for our school.
The biblical scripture chosen for our school is Jeremiah 29 vs 11

'For I Know The Plans I Have For You' Declares the Lord, 'Plans to Prosper You and Not to Harm You, Plans to Give You Hope and a Future.'

The Tree of Life and our chosen scripture verse personify wisdom

Our Christian Vision for our school community

The tree of life is an image which is central to Christianity. It is established in old testament understanding of the creation of the world, as of the relationship between God and humanity.

The personification of wisdom is seen in the tree of life. Something which is reflected through many other of the major world religions.

'Our children are the tree and the leaves and Birmingham is their city. Our children will be the ones to bring about healing and restoration within families, schools and communities.

The scripture verse helps us to reflect on the wisdom God gave to Jeremiah, we know this because he says, ' For I know the plans I have for you'. It also stresses the importance of Christians remaining hopeful during difficult times.

A lot of our families have had to overcome many challenging circumstances, prior to their arrival at our school. It is therefore our Christian duty to provide our students with a garden and a community to live well together in and to grow, a deep and rich education in which they will put down their roots to develop wisdom, knowledge, and skills.

We will give them the sunlight to reach for hope and aspiration, and they will be tended by people who show them respect and dignity so they become respectful adults who treat others with dignity.'

This policy has been drawn up by the governors of the school in consultation with the headteacher, collective worship coordinator, incumbent and other members of staff.

St. George's C of E Newton Primary is a Church of England Academy, with a Voluntary controlled heritage. In addition to the national legal requirement that there should be daily worship, as a church school, we have a Trust Deed which states that worship should be 'in accordance with the principles and practices of the Church of England' and in accordance with the School Ethos Statement in the statutory Instrument of Government. Collective Worship takes place every day for all pupils.

All members of staff are expected to attend acts of collective worship.

For our church school, Collective Worship is a highly valued part of the school day as it is the time when we gather together to affirm what is important to us, to our school and to our world. We take care to plan our collective worship so that it is inclusive, invitational, and inspiring. In our times of collective worship together, the school affirms the claims of Christianity which underpins the values of the school, and which is the faith of some teachers and pupils. It provides an opportunity for pupils to worship God, whilst seeking to be relevant to, and inclusive, of all. It reflects our Anglican tradition as well as exploring with pupils and

staff a variety of ways in which Christians worship God. In acts of Collective Worship in our school it is recognised that in our school community, some members will come from families with a commitment to the Christian faith, others from families with a commitment to another faith and yet others will have no particular commitment to any tradition. Therefore, the content and language of collective worship allows for different levels of response. It invites rather than coerces.

Acts of worship in our school will be predominantly and overtly Christian. However, as there are children from a variety of faiths and none, in addition to children from Christian homes, we do, from time to time, draw upon religious material from a variety of traditions when preparing collective worship. The original source of the material (story, song, text, information) is clearly stated, and then set in a Christian framework, and the connections with the Christian tradition are explored. For example, in discussing the Muslim celebration of Eid ul fitr, it would be important to point out that this was a Muslim festival at the end of Ramadan and that Muslims would be celebrating the conclusion to the time of fasting. It would then be appropriate to make links with the feelings of thankfulness and to move onto the idea of Christian thanksgiving to God for all the good gifts.

Collective worship in our school influences the way that we live together as a community and before God. Members of the community are challenged to think, act and live differently as a result of these times together. Collective worship is a time for community building.

At St George's C of E Primary Academy Newtown, collective worship is an occasion for nurturing spiritual health and learning together in an inclusive way. In collective worship, there is time and space to:

<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Spiritual character developing understanding in these four areas</p>	<p>to think about God to listen to God to make a response to God to explore a relationship with God to enjoy being in the presence of God to contemplate the awesomeness of God</p> <p style="text-align: right; border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">God</p> <p>to offer adoration, praise and thanksgiving to God</p> <p>to get a sense of things unseen to wonder to recognise the preciousness of our planet and the natural world</p> <p style="text-align: right; border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">Our world</p> <p>to feel a sense of belonging to a group that shares and celebrates together, as well as being thoughtful or sad together</p> <p>to experience a feeling of connectedness to others in the world and a sense of responsibility towards them to realise that life can be hard and challenging, that there is difficulty to be faced, but people can do it together with others</p> <p style="text-align: right; border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">Others</p> <p>to reflect on personal belief to reflect upon ourselves and our lives as part of a bigger picture of life to recognise personal strengths and weaknesses to note feelings and opinions to recognise that everyone gets things wrong and makes mistakes, but it is possible to move beyond them to think in a new way to gain inspiration to receive a challenge to live differently to rejoice in being unique and preciousto be, rather than do</p> <p>....</p> <p style="text-align: right; border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">Myself</p>
<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Educational character</p>	<p>to learn about different ways of worshipping and about imagery and symbolism to learn about the faith of the local church community to participate in marking important features of the church calendar to explore the Christian vision and values of the school to use stillness and quietness to have a quiet moment in a busy day to celebrate gifts, talents and achievements to consider spiritual questions raised in the rest of the curriculum</p>
<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Inclusive character</p>	<p>whatever the age, aptitude or background of school community member where the integrity of each is respected drawing upon the leadership expertise of many adults and pupils enabling children to explore and evaluate their beliefs sharing worship from time to time with parents, governors and members of the local community</p>

The organisation of Collective Worship

Collective Worship Timetable

Day	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Time	9:15am	2:30pm	2:30pm	2:30pm	2:30pm
Group	Whole school assembly	Class Assembly	Phase Assembly	Class Assembly	Whole school assembly
Style	Introduction to Christian value for the half term. Weekly stories linked to the Christian value.	Reflective worship on the whole assembly Christian value	Topical assembly based on current affairs or other religious festivals taking place. /Praise and Worship	Praise worship	Celebration of gifts and talents displayed during the week.
Venue	Classroom/ virtual Teams	Classroom/ virtual Teams	Classroom/ virtual Teams	Classroom/ virtual Teams	Classroom/ virtual Teams
Leader	Head teacher or a member of the senior leadership team	Class teacher	On a rota basis from teachers within the phase	Class teacher	On a rota basis from teachers from the whole school

The planning of Collective Worship

Each half-term there is a theme for Collective worship based on Collective worship scheme Roots and Fruits. All of the themes within the Roots and Fruits scheme focus on a Christian value. Those leading worship are asked to relate their worship to the selected theme for the duration of the half term. The themes chosen follow a bi-annual pattern. This will mean that, by the end of a two-year cycle, the pupils will have had the opportunity to reflect on the theme from a variety of viewpoints. On occasions it is recognised that those leading worship may feel that they need to respond to local or national events. We are actively encouraging pupils to lead acts of collective worship via the Worship Team.

All those leading collective worships are asked to prepare for their act of worship by designing a PowerPoint, use of a short film to reinforce the Christian value / theme, selection of a song and the changing of the liturgical cloths.

The content of Collective Worship

Within our collective worship we provide a wide variety of stimuli to help pupils to reflect upon and respond to the central theme. These include:

Story
Music
Power Point images and slideshows
Questioning
Singing
Praying

As we are an Anglican school we reflect aspects of Anglican worship in the following ways:

- We use the Bible as a source of Christian teaching, and give it a prominent place in our worship.
- We draw upon the teaching of Jesus and explore the relevance of his teaching in today's world.
- We follow the cycle of the Anglican year; Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter and Pentecost and St. George's day.
- We use liturgical colours for our worship focus.
- We use Christian symbols and artefacts, exploring their meaning for Christians
- Using Anglican sentences and responses (e.g. The Lord be with you ... and also with you)

The management of Collective Worship

The governors hold overall responsibility for ensuring that the legal requirements for worship are met, but the head teacher has the statutory accountability for ensuring that collective worship takes place. The nominated person with specific responsibility for collective worship in our school is Mrs. Francis.

Arrangements for reflecting, monitoring and recording class responses to Collective Worship

The content of collective worship is informed by the Roots and Fruits Bi- annual calendar and the national RE festival calendar for the corresponding year

Evaluation takes place in the following ways:

- There is a weekly reflection by pupils in the collective worship class book.
- There is a termly agenda item for the school council/worship council • Governors ensure that collective worship is reviewed on a regular basis.
- They monitor the provision of collective worship, by asking a representative to attend a session per term and then feeding back to the governing board.
- Results of monitoring practices are shared with the governing board on a frequent basis.

Parental Right of Withdrawal from Collective Worship

Parents have the right to withdraw their child from collective worship. If a parent wishes to consider this option, the Head Teacher should be approached.

Review date for the policy September 2024