

Northway Primary and Nursery School



Policy for Collective Worship and Assemblies

Date of Policy: 24th November 2022
Date approved: 1st December 2021
By: The Governing Board of Northway Primary and Nursery School

Signed:
Chair of Governors

Subject Lead:
Date of Review: 23rd November 2024

1. Statement of consideration of equalities in all policies and procedures

Collective Worship and Assembly is planned '**for all**' where pupils should feel valued and given the best start to the day. Each event is consistent with the vision and values of Northway, its Golden Thread and Values for Victory.

2. Intent

Our school vision stems from our belief that all children should be given the opportunity to **aspire** and know that aspiration is good; to take their places as full global citizens, showing: respect, trust, courage, forgiveness, compassion and hope. Children should know that nothing is out of their reach if they find a strategy **together** to **succeed**.

The daily act of Collective Worship is of great importance to the children and staff of **Northway Primary and Nursery School** and helps build **community**. It should provide an opportunity to '**be together**' as a whole school, to explore Values for Victory and partake in age appropriate reflection and collective worship.

Legal Requirement

A daily act of Collective Worship is a legal requirement of the 1988 Education Reform Act. The Collective Worship Policy at **Northway** Primary and Nursery School follows the guidance of: Circular 1/94 Religious Education and Collective Worship.

This Act states that collective worship should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character'. In recognition of the fact that some of our pupils are practicing members of other faiths (or none) our collective worship is underpinned by Values for Victory, taking aspects of Christian teaching that are shared with other faiths.

This policy will outline the School's approach to and expectations of the daily act of Collective Worship. The policy will be of use to all stakeholders.

3. Implementation

Procedures:

- Children are expected to enter and leave with a sense of reverence, either in silence, reflecting on music or singing a song.
- While the children are in the hall children sit in class rows on the floor (or benches) or at times in arc / horse shoe shape.
- There should be a visual focus at the start and end from a variety of sources. This may reflect the theme of the collective worship and the age of the child.
- A song relevant to the theme can be sung and the words displayed.
- Each Collective Worship or Assembly should end with a prayer. Children should be instructed: 'We are going to end with a prayer. If you want to make this prayer your own, join in and say Amen at the end. Otherwise you may think about the words and what they mean to you.'

- Parents and members of the local community are invited at appropriate times, eg, Class Collective Worship, Harvest, Christmas, Easter and other times. When possible visiting speakers are invited.

Collective Worship should be **inclusive**. It should:

- Be pupil centred, related to pupils` own experience and relevant to pupil concerns
- Acknowledge diversity
- Involve pupils as active participants
- Match the needs of pupils
- Foster a sense of community

Objectives of Collective Worship

To develop a sense of:

- Awe, wonder and mystery
- Interdependence with the natural world
- Self-worth and value of others

To develop an awareness:

- That life involves choices of attitude / behaviour / relationships
- That there are issues of meaning, purpose and value in life

At Northway, all collective worship is based on the principle that they should be:

- Inclusive
- Enjoyable
- Spiritual
- Educational
- Focused
- Flexible
- Related to the needs and interest of the children and contribute to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of the children.

Collective Worship is seen as a special time where children feel secure, sharing with others to foster a feeling of community (Koinonia).

Collective Worship should be **educational**. It should:

- Be a learning experience
- Relate to pupils' own experiences
- Be properly planned

- Relate to other curriculum activities where possible
- Provide the school with opportunities to reflect on the education it provides
- Have a purpose and celebrate educational achievements
- Be consistent with the aims of the school

Collective Worship should be **spiritual**. It should give:

- Time to be still and reflect with an opportunity for children to acknowledge God in their own way or reflect on their own lives within the world.
- A special time.
- Children a feeling of calm, relaxation and security.
- A variety of words, music and images.
- A time for reflection

Planning

The Headteacher in conjunction with the Behaviour and Attitudes Lead plans collective Worship on a 2 – 3 year cycle. **Roots and Fruits** alongside **Big Start Assemblies** are used as our spine for planning, exploring 'Christian Values for Primary School Children' in an age appropriate and interactive way.

Monday	Headteacher	Values for Victory focus
Tuesday	Open The Book	Open The Book Team - Bible and Values
Wednesday	Staff	In The World (News related) Wellbeing and Calm Active 'For for Life' Theme linked to the need of the pupils at that time
Thursday	Headteacher / SLT	Values for Victory – Value into Practice (Attitudes)
Friday	Leadership	Celebration / Attendance Writing / Mathematics / Science (inc a reflection)

On Wednesday or Friday, we recognize other Faiths when important times arise, such as Eid, Ramadan, Hanukah, Diwali or Holi. We also incorporate British festivals, such as Bonfire Night, Jubilees or Saints Days.

Although plans are prepared ready for September, the scheme is flexible enough to accommodate any issues that the School wishes to include from the world of news.

Learners who need more

Children with identified additional needs have their collective worship / assembly experienced adapted to ensure it is a positive experience. Ear defenders can be worn, or a specific area of the hall used to sit. 1:1s also participate to ensure their child feels safe.

Some of our collective worships are transmitted using Zoom. This allows pupils to participate from The Oasis or another classroom space.

4. Impact

	<p>PLUG IN – this is about awakening the children</p> <p>Using a stimulus e.g. music, picture, quotation, candle, flowers. We need to give the children time to prepare. A well chosen piece of music can help create an atmosphere for worship and reflection.</p>
	<p>SWITCH ON – this is about engaging the children</p> <p>It will usually focus on a particular story, article, drama or message. Using different approaches and involving different people will provide variety in worship. The material should be presented in an appealing way and be appropriate to the age group. Visual aids and artefacts can provide useful illustrations of key points and help the children to remember the message.</p>
	<p>LIGHT UP – this is about allowing the children to respond.</p> <p>It must include an opportunity for the pupils to reflect and if appropriate for them, to think about God. It may be a prayer, poem or guided reflection. This part must take place for it to be collective worship. Silence can allow time for individual thought and reflection, or prayer as appropriate.</p>

This format is based on one produced by Blackburn Diocese.

Note: It is common for schools to combine an assembly and collective worship. In this case, the 'Plug in' and 'Switch on' parts may be regarded as part of the assembly. The act of collective worship is the 'Light up' aspect.

Ready	In the Classroom
Steady	Attend CW / Assembly
✓ Welcome	Plug in
✓ Learning	Switch On
✓ Reflecting	Light up
✓ Responding	Light up
Go	Into lessons

5. Monitoring and Review

The impact of collective worship and Assembly is carried out by staff and SLT and learning from this is implemented in future plans. Children's voice is used to measure the impact.

6. The Right of Withdrawal

Parents have the right to withdraw their child from acts of worship, although this requires an official school response. Each collective worship or assembly is conducted in a **sensitive and inclusive manner** to ensure that **all children** feel comfortable to attend the assembly. Not being part of this experience will mean children miss out on an integral part of the school day and the wider holistic teaching on behaviour, attitudes and Values for Victory.