

Northiam Church of England Primary School



COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

ADOPTED: JUNE 2016
REVIEW DATE: JUNE 2017

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

Northiam Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School has its foundation in the Church of England, and the practice for Collective Worship throughout the school reflects the school's foundation as a school that promotes Christian values.

Our Mission Statement

A small school with a big heart

Our mission is for every child to be the best they can be. Our school is a place to explore ideas and face new challenges with enthusiasm. We develop confidence and a sense of responsibility in a caring, safe environment and within a strong community. The values and teachings of the Christian faith sustain us and help us to achieve our goals.

At Northiam Primary School we help children to develop:

- Lively, enquiring minds and a love of learning; the ability to question, to argue rationally and to think for them selves
- The ability to work hard and to succeed at tasks: to work independently and with other people
- A sense of self respect, self-confidence and self-reliance: an awareness of and sensitivity to the needs of others
- The knowledge, skills and practical abilities they will need throughout their lives, at work and play, in a fast moving world
- A reasoned set of personal attitudes, values and beliefs, an understanding of the world and their place in it: a respect for the religious and moral values of others.

At Northiam Church of England Primary School we believe that Christian values and understanding are an important part of creating an environment in which each child feels a sense of belonging and security.

We want our school to be a place where every child and member of staff feels valued and respected, and where high quality teaching, learning and achievement are in evidence.

Our school seeks to maintain and develop links with the wider community to which it belongs, to the benefit of the pupils and the community.

We believe that our aims are best achieved through a sense of common purpose among children, parents, staff and governors of the school.

Aims and purpose

The aims and purpose of collective worship are:

- to provide an opportunity for the children to worship God;
- to enable the children to learn about God, Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit plus other key Christian people and events;
- to enable children to consider spiritual and moral issues;
- to enable children to explore their own beliefs;
- to encourage participation and response;
- to promote an understanding of Christian principles such as forgiveness;
- to develop in children a sense of community spirit;
- to promote a common ethos with shared values and to reinforce positive attitudes;
- to teach children to understand the nature and purpose of worship and reflect with the opportunity for stillness and quiet
- to give thanks and celebrate achievement

Collective worship

We understand worship to be a special act or occasion whose purpose is to show reverence to God.

Collective Worship involves all members of the school coming together and participating in an assembly.

We believe that as a church school it is vital that our assemblies are as interactive as they can be. We want to be sure that they are well paced and capture the children's thoughts and minds.

In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act, which states that Collective Worship should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character', we base our Collective Worship on the teachings of Jesus Christ and traditions and festivals of the Anglican Church. We conduct our Collective Worship in a manner that aims to be sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs of all members of the school.

Organisation of Collective Worship

We hold a daily act of Collective Worship in our school. This is usually Whole School, but can be Key Stage or Classroom.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Whole School Worship	Whole School Worship	Whole School Worship	Celebration Worship	Praise and Reflection
Executive Head/Rector	Head of School	Staff rota	Head of School	Music Teacher

We conduct Collective Worship in a dignified and respectful way. We tell children that this time together is a time to worship God and hold a period of calm reflection. We regard it as a special time and expect children to behave in an appropriate way. We ask them to be thoughtful and to listen carefully to the teaching and

participate fully in prayer and hymns. We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music and sometimes candles, pictures or other objects that act as a focal point for attention and thought.

The Executive Headteacher, Head of School, local clergy and other members of staff, lead acts of Collective Worship.

We plan weekly themes for our time together for the whole school year and link it to a Christian teaching. We often reflect the festivals and events of the Christian calendar in our weekly themes. Sometimes the themes of our Collective Worship may reflect and build on topics that we teach as part of the school curriculum.

Our times for Collective Worship reflect the achievements and learning of the children. We encourage the children to participate by occasionally leading the worship (in small groups) and by showing their work to the other children, reading and writing prayers, playing instruments, singing or being part of a whole class leading the worship. Celebration Worship offers an opportunity to acknowledge and reward children for their achievements both in and out of school. They play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school, which is that all children are valued and achievements are recognised. Northiam C.E. Primary School is a successful school and we celebrate the successes of all the children as part of this worship.

We invite parents to Collective Worship for special gatherings such as Christmas and Harvest. We encourage them to attend as this promotes the community spirit of the school and is a practical demonstration of the way the home and the school work together to support the achievements of our children

Collective Worship is an occasion for developing spiritual awareness in the child. This can be assisted by promoting a sense of awe and wonder through the teaching of the theme. The development of spiritual awareness is enhanced through a range of ways to praise God and tell of His love, including: -

- Singing, including action songs,
- Drama,
- Story telling, including Bible stories,
- Playing instruments,
- Bible readings,
- Watching videos of Bible stories,
- Praying,
- Creating a time for quiet and reflection

The time for Collective Worship can be an opportunity to develop morality in the child. Issues such as bullying, ostracizing, not showing care or concern for one another, can all be addressed and linked to the Christian teaching.

We welcome governors' attendance at our time together.

Resources

The School Budget Share can be used to purchase resources to assist worship.

To create a focal point these may include: -

A candle

Coloured cloths/drapes

Pictures/illustrations

Words to the songs produced for use with the projector.

Costumes

Christian based videos

Songs and other music on CD

We have a cross that is located at a focal point and the children are encouraged during their reflection time to use this.

Right of withdrawal

We expect all children to attend Collective Worship. However, any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from attending religious worship and the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during the period concerned. The right to withdraw their child is stated annually in the School Prospectus. Parents do not have to explain or give reasons for this. This complies with the 1944 Education Act and was restated in the 1988 Education Reform Act.

The Headteacher keeps a record of all children who withdraw from Collective Worship is kept and makes arrangements for them at Collective Worship time.

Monitoring and review

It is the role of the governors to monitor the school's policies and practice for Religious Education and Collective Worship. The Executive Headteacher, Head of School and the Shadow Governing Body make the arrangements for in-school monitoring to take place.

SLT have used the Diocesan Toolkit to review worship at Northiam CEP School.

Reviewed: June 2016