



Northiam CEP – Collective Worship Policy

“I came that they may have and enjoy life and have it in abundance, to the full, till it overflows.” John 10:10

Open Horizons to enable and guide children to their full potential.

Vision:

At Northiam we feel *Living, Loving and Learning in abundance with God* is at the heart of all we do. Our school strives to serve our community by providing an abundant and excellent education that encompasses a wide range of opportunities to understand their place in the world.

As a Church of England School we see the valued place of Collective Worship as central to the whole school community and as part of the wider curriculum. Collective Worship underpins our commitment to guiding our children to an understanding of the Christian faith.

Our Collective Worship Policy fulfils the statutory requirements common to all schools according to the 1998 Education Reform Act (and consolidated in the 1996 Education Act). It also fulfils the Diocesan requirements that states that worship will be Christian in content with an Anglican emphasise.

Aims:

At Northiam CEP School through Collective Worship we aim to:

- Contribute to the moral, spiritual and cultural development of all children and staff.
- Enable the children to leave us, having started on a spiritual journey that will enrich and shape their adult lives.
- Use and promote the clearly identified core Christian values of our school (Trust, Thankfulness, Humility, Courage, Compassion and Fellowship).
- Enable participants to develop an understanding of Jesus Christ and a Christian understanding of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
- Develop an understanding of Anglican traditions and the practice of the local parish church, St. Mary's.
- Raise aspirations of individuals and the school community.

How we achieve our aims:

We aim to promote collective acts of worship, which are rich, meaningful experiences that are appropriate and significant to the pupil's needs, age, development and interest by:

- Creating a sense of occasion and reverence.
 - Planning and linking themes which focus on a particular idea/concept, i.e. festivals and celebrations, Christian and other faith traditions, our Christian values – celebrating achievements, good work and behaviour/citizenship
 - Using a wide range of resources, devotional aids, artefacts (from religious and secular sources), music, art, drama and external speakers where possible to engage children's interest.
 - Encourage children to participate and experience different styles of worship, e.g. prayer, praise, silence, rituals, and become familiar with the language of worship, Biblical readings and liturgy.
 - Providing opportunities for pupils to reflect, contemplate on their own thoughts, feelings and beliefs.
 - Using prayer – personal silent prayer, personal shared prayers, collective prayers, writing prayers.

- Providing opportunities that develop pupil's awareness of what is beautiful, good, wonderful, awesome and puzzling in life experience.
- Involving pupils and members of the wider community to participate in collective worship and activities within the parish.
- Presenting and creating displays that promote and enhance spiritual ideas, thoughts and questions.
- The School's reception area displays the school's distinctive ethos and Christian values.

Content of Collective Worship:

As a Church of England School the content of our worship is organised to:

- Follow a half termly, 1 year cycle to cover our 6 Christian Values
- Cover all the major Christian festivals including Harvest, Christmas, Easter and Pentecost.
- Be rooted in Bible teaching
- Use the Lord's prayer or other prayers written by pupils
- Be presented using a variety of styles including music, story, drama, enthusiastic singing, reflection and reverence in prayer time.

The Collective Worship will be based on the following structure:

1. Gathering -Creating an atmosphere of reverence:

- Music for pupils' entry and exit
- If appropriate an Interactive Whiteboard focal point images to provoke thought, reflection and spirituality or items on display.
- The theme or value should be stated.
- The whole school join in with a worship song.

2. Engagement:

A wide range of high level strategies and best available techniques should be used to support the Christian value to be covered. This could include:

- A bible story read, acted out, retold, hot seated, watched on film / listened to
- Thinking about a particular theme through story
- Using a prop or modern day event to lead into thinking about a biblical / spiritual theme
- Allowing individuals to participate either spontaneously or in a planned way – this could be a member of the community.
- Pupil led Collective Worship

3. Prayer and quiet reflection:

All acts of Collective Worship in school should include an opportunity for prayer and quiet reflection which could include:

- Opportunities for children to write their own prayers.
- Prayer by individuals or a period of reflection in a time of quiet.

4. Take away:

This is an opportunity to reflect on the meaning of the assembly before the children are sent away.

Organisation of assemblies:

Monday: Collective worship led by Headteacher or member of the Church/Open the Book.

Tuesday: Collective Worship led by a member of teaching staff or the Headteacher

Wednesday: Collective Worship led by a member of teaching staff or the Headteacher

Thursday: A celebration in song

Friday: Whole school celebration of work led by Headteacher or member of Teaching Staff.

Courage Squad:

The Courage Squad plan and lead an assembly at the end of each term which reflects on the value for that term. Members of the Courage Squad also support the assembly by for example reading the prayer, supporting the singing by actions or sitting with particular groups of children.

Special Services and Visitors:

We value our links with the staff and congregation of St. Mary's Church. We hold our Harvest, Christmas, and Easter services in church and participate in the act of remembrance at the memorial. The vicar always attends our services in the church and regularly leads Collective Worship. Members of the Parish enact stories from the bible and the children engage and reflect on the messages in the bible and how they translate to them today. All visitors are welcome to attend our Collective Worship.

Monitoring and Evaluation:

Governors monitor Collective Worship and report to the whole governing body. Pupils are also involved in evaluating collective worship through feedback in questionnaires and pupil conferences. All leaders of collective worship are asked to evaluate continuously and reflect after every Collective Worship, to develop and improve their practice.

Inclusion and withdrawal:

Collective worship is central to the life of the school. However, parents/carers do have a legal right to withdraw their children from all or part of worship. Before making the decision to exercise that right parents /carers are encouraged to discuss the issues with the principal. Staff also have the right to withdraw on grounds of conscience but we hope that all staff will feel able to support the Christian ethos of the school by participating in collective worship.