



Norton St Nicholas CofE (VA) Primary School

Norton Road, Norton, Letchworth Garden City,
Hertfordshire SG6 1AG.



Headteacher: Mr S Cowdery

tel: 01462 623322

fax: 01462 623355

e-mail: admin@stnicholas23.herts.sch.uk

Website: www.stnicholas23.herts.sch.uk

Collective Worship Policy

“To worship is to quicken the conscience by the holiness of God, to feed the mind with the truth of God, to purge the imagination by the beauty of God, to open the heart to the love of God and to devote the will to the purpose of God”.

William Temple (1881-1894)

Philosophy

Norton St. Nicholas CofE (VA) Primary School is a Church of England Voluntary Aided School. Worship is therefore an important part of the school day as it gives us the opportunity to come together as a school community. It is attended by pupils, staff and any visitors in school are very welcome to join in.

Collective Worship and the Law

Church schools in the diocese must fulfil two legal requirements for Collective Worship:-

- The legal requirement for Church schools ensures that every child in the school is entitled to an opportunity for daily worship.

“The arrangements for the required collective worship may, in respect of each school day, provide for a single act of worship for all pupils or for separate acts of worship for pupils in different age groups or in different school groups.”

The School Standards and Framework Act 1998

- Collective Worship in Church schools must be in accordance with the school’s trust deed.

Collective Worship should be in accordance with the school’s Trust Deed

Trust deed and ethos statement

The school will preserve and develop its religious character in accordance with the principles of the Church of England and in partnership with the Church at parish and diocesan level.

The school aims to serve its community by providing an education of the highest quality within the context of Christian belief and practice.

It encourages an understanding of the meaning and significance of faith, and promotes Christian values through the experience it offers to all its pupils.

All acts of worship are in accordance with the school's Trust Deed and reflect the Anglican status of the school. In addition to daily school worship, special celebrations take place in Church.

Defining Collective Worship

You could write a book on this topic, but briefly it is the correct term for what might be called the “religious bit” of assembly. For example, the hymn, prayer, story and moral are together Collective Worship, the litter-moan plus the football and netball results are not. <http://www.stalbanseducation.org.uk/Intro/fage.htm>

Collective worship should reflect something special or separate from ordinary school activities and it should be concerned with reverence or veneration paid to a divine being or power. School worship is different in character to worship amongst groups with beliefs in common, hence the use of the word “*collective*” rather than “*corporate*”.

Ideally, the act of worship should encompass all aspects of school life and all areas of the curriculum so that all who take part may feel involved. It both reflects and nurtures the ethos of the school. In particular it develops a feeling of belonging to a community which is essential for personal development and physical growth.

Responsibilities of the Governing Body

- To fulfil their legal and statutory responsibilities to uphold the Christian foundation of the school.
- To ensure all staff are made clear of their responsibility to uphold the Christian ethos and foundation of the school upon appointment.

Responsibilities of the school

- To clearly plan acts of Collective Worship
- To make parents aware that the school is a Church school and as such Collective Worship will be based upon the foundations and principles of the Church of England.

Responsibilities of the pupils

- To actively engage in all Collective Worship at Norton St. Nicholas CofE (VA) Primary School.

Aims of Collective Worship

It is our aim at Norton St. Nicholas CofE (VA) Primary School that worship should: -

- offer opportunities to worship God
- underpin the Christian values and ethos of the school
- reflect the school’s Trust Deed
- reflect the school’s Church of England foundation in a tangible way
- reflect the Ethos Statement and/or Mission Statement of the school
- reflect some of the practices and traditions of the local church
- provide an opportunity for thought, prayer, reflection and celebration in a caring atmosphere
- be inclusive and an occasion where each individual’s integrity is respected
- be appropriate to the ages, aptitudes and backgrounds of the pupils
- offer opportunities for pupils’ spiritual, moral, social and cultural development
- help children explore and develop their own spirituality
- enable children to explore and evaluate their own beliefs
- help children think about a wide variety of ideas and dimensions of life, including the spiritual, ritual, wonderful, joyful, tragic, sorrowful, solemn and humorous
- show children that we are members of a wider community, both local and global;
- encourage a care and concern for others in society and the natural world;
- be an opportunity for pupils to reflect on human existence
- show appreciation for the God given gifts and talents of the school community
- celebrate the values and worth of the school community
- offer opportunities to share worship with parents, governors and members of the local community
- celebrate special occasions in the Church’s year and the life of the community
- be clearly planned
- be regularly monitored and evaluated

The approach to Collective Worship

In acts of worship we should ensure that:

- the school's Church of England Foundation should be reflected by the central position of a cross, a candle and an open Bible (which at other times is kept in the entrance hall).
- the purpose of the act of worship is clear to all present.
- themes are developed effectively on a half-termly, weekly or daily basis.
- artefacts, visual aids or other foci of interest are used where appropriate.
- opportunities are given for prayer, reflection and quiet.
- the occasion engenders an atmosphere conducive to worship.
- there is a balance between music, speech and silence.
- children are actively involved as much as possible.
- subject matter is appropriate to the age and experience of children.
- visitors, governors and parents are welcome to attend on a variety of occasions.
- links with the churches of St George and St Nicholas in the parish of Norton are maintained and strengthened.
- children and adults take away something to think about and take into their daily life within school and the community.

The Timing of Collective Worship

Collective Worship is given a special period in the school day. However, it should be remembered that:

- Collective Worship can take place at any time and in any groupings
- Worship can take place in a variety of settings; for example - In the school hall, in a class, outside, in the local church or church hall.
- The 1998 Education Act allows schools, on special occasions, to hold their daily Act of Worship elsewhere than in the school.

A suggested timetable for Collective Worship:

Day	Activity	Collective worship opportunity
Monday	Whole school assembly taken by the Headteacher/Deputy/Assistant Head teachers. Staff must attend either a Monday or Tuesday assembly.	Story of religious substance, prayer and quiet reflection time.
Tuesday	An assembly for the whole school community led by the vicar or similar visitor to school.	Story of religious substance, worship song, prayer and quiet reflection time.
Wednesday	Whole School 'Big Sing' to encourage enjoyment of singing and learning of new worship songs. Worship song and prayer.	A prayer that reflects upon the songs.
Thursday	Pupil Choice Worship/Pupil Led Worship. Each class in turn chooses a theme for the worship message (story from bible, theme from bible, value to develop, etc.)	Story, prayer and worship song
Friday	Celebration assembly. Whole school assembly to celebrate and reward the outstanding achievements of the children during that week. A prayer that reflects this occasion.	Prayer.

The Planning of Collective Worship

Collective worship will be treated like any other part of the curriculum when it comes to matters of planning, delivery, resourcing and evaluation.

Each week/month/term there is a theme for Collective worship this is usually based on the Diocese Collective Worship document in accordance with our Values Education.

This pattern is flexible and on occasions it is recognised that teachers may feel that they need to respond to local or national events.

All those leading Collective Worship are asked to plan their act of worship in as much detail as they would any other learning activity. A worship-planning group meets once a term led by the worship co-ordinator. These meetings are an opportunity to review and evaluate the last terms Acts of Collective Worship and to plan themes for the next term. Collective Worship is regularly evaluated through pupil voice.

One of the schools Foundation Governors has a role monitoring Collective Worship at the school.

We seek to encourage pupils to voice their views on Collective Worship and to be a part of the evaluation process. The school seeks the views of the pupils when planning the Thursday worship session – a book is left on the worship table for pupil's thoughts and ideas.

Evaluation of Collective Worship

Following the planning of worship; the evaluation and recording, needs to be an integral part of the process. Worship can be evaluated by those leading the worship, other staff, the pupils for whom the worship is intended or members of the governing body. Feedback from any of these groups will help to improve the quality of worship offered to the pupils.

Monitoring of Collective Worship

The monitoring of the planning and provision of worship should be carried out on a regular basis. The foundation governors have a key role in this process to ensure that the legal requirements are met and that the worship offered to the pupils is of the highest quality. It is recommended that the Collective Worship section of The National Societies Self-evaluation toolkit be used as a basis for this process

Written: March 2011

Adopted: March 2011

Reviewed: March 2016

Review Date: March 2018

This policy has been reviewed and has been assessed as being compliant with the requirements of the Equality Act 2010

Appendix 1

Provision for withdrawal from Collective Worship

Parents may ask for their child to be totally or partially withdrawn from Collective Worship. Reasons for withdrawal do not have to be given and the school must enable parents to exercise this legal entitlement. Parents are asked to contact the Head teacher if they wish to withdraw their child. It is hoped that, in discussing their requirements, an understanding can be reached and arrangements for alternative worship or supervision made.

Appendix 2

RE and its relationship to Collective worship

In law, RE and collective worship are distinct. RE is part of the school curriculum; it has to be delivered appropriately for pupils of different ages and abilities. It cannot be delivered during collective worship.

However, during collective worship at Norton St. Nicholas, stories from the Bible, Christian and other traditions are told and enjoyed, festival days and celebrations are often mentioned, and we enjoy assemblies led by members of religious communities. These complement and bring depth to our RE program. A separate policy is available for RE.