

The Nethersole C of E Academy

Collective Worship Policy

**To be light (living in our community and reaching out beyond it) bringing
out the God-colours in the world.'**

Jesus said, 'You're here to be light, bringing out the God-colours in the world.'

Matthew 5:16



Date Policy Ratified by the LAB	January 2024
Headteacher	Mrs S J Goode
Chair of Governors	Mr C Mansell
Review Date	January 2027

Our policy for Collective Worship is set in the context of and gives life to our Christian Vision and Values. It mirrors the Church of England Education Office guidance for collective worship - ***Inclusive, Invitational, Inspiring 2021.***

The Law

By law Collective Worship:

- must be provided for every registered child every day.
- must be in accordance with the tenets of its foundation and consistent with the denomination or religious tradition of the school in schools with a religious character.

Our Theologically Rooted Christian Vision -

The Nethersole Church of England Academy and Nursery Primary School has a Christian foundation that inspires its life and work. Following the teaching of Jesus, we accept the challenge:

'to be light [living in our community and reaching out beyond it], bringing out the God-colours in the world.' Matthew 5:16

At the heart of our school is the understanding that everyone is a child of God, fearfully and wonderfully made in His image. Our work therefore is to nurture and love every individual, child and adult, to find and develop their gifts, overcoming barriers and growing in confidence to flourish - to let their light shine as the very best God version of themselves. Effective teaching and learning underpins this. We wish to inspire everyone to take responsibility for creation, civilisation, and the well-being of each of other, embracing and treasuring our differences.

Our Christ led vision is for a world of justice, respect, and love, and of people who are not afraid to love and sacrifice themselves for others. Our inspiration is Jesus, who loves us in sacrifice, forgives us and reminds us that we each have something special to do to bring out the God colours of the world. We believe that there is a space for everyone to shine brightly and differently and that this adds to the richness of our school family, our community, and the wider world.

Our Christian vision for everyone to be unique and collectively shine lights in God's world is illuminated by our biblically based Christian values that we learn to radiate in our daily lives - in our attitudes, relationships, behaviour, choices, and decisions.

Our Core Christian Values -

The values that we promote at our school are all taken from either the teachings of Jesus or stories from within the Old Testament.

Hope - Trust in God's promise for our future. Aspiration for the spiritual and academic flourishing for all.

Community - Enabling everyone, children and adults, to flourish together.

Respect and Dignity - Everyone matters; everyone is loved; everyone shines.

Forgiveness - A chance to start again.

Wisdom - Knowledge, skills, understanding and doing the right thing.

Thankfulness – Appreciating God’s goodness.

Collective Worship and the Church of England -

‘Church of England schools are committed to offering high quality collective worship. They are places that recognise and value collective worship as central to fostering a sense of community and to expressing the school’s Christian vision. In practice this means that structure, planning, evaluation, participation, collaboration, and inspection of worship are all taken seriously by the school and by the diocese. We strive to ensure that collective worship remains the relevant and essential component of an education that enables all pupils to flourish and to ‘live life in all its fullness’ John 10:10. Collective Worship is seen as more than a daily ‘awe and wonder’ moment. It is the unique heartbeat of the school and is offered as part of a wider opportunity for pupils and adults to encounter faith by engaging in conversations about God, both as individuals and together.

We aim for Collective Worship to be truly welcoming, inclusive and exemplifying the principles of Christian hospitality. This is an approach that seeks to meet the needs of all, wherever they may be on their journey of faith and belief.’

Inclusive, Invitational, Inspiring - The Church of England Education 2021.

Inclusive, Invitational and Inspiring -

We work to ensure that everyone in the school family (children and adults) has an enriching experience in Collective Worship.

Inclusive

In our Collective Worship we meet, explore, question, and respond to others and, for some, to God. We seek to ensure that all children, their families and other adults in our school community encounter worship that is inclusive of, and fully accessible to, all. We recognise that children and adults in our school come from different faith backgrounds as well as of no faith background. We acknowledge that everyone is at different stages of their spiritual journey during their time in school. We give children and staff the opportunity to think and ask questions. There is space to consent, and dissent: to participate and to stand back; and to consider. We take care to ensure that the language used by those facilitating collective worship avoids assuming faith in all those participating, listening and watching.

Collective Worship will invite and welcome meaningful contributions from the whole school community, including children and adults. We value the individual experiences, of those in our school community, that they bring to collective worship. In our school, inclusion is expressed through some children and adult involvement in the planning, leading and the evaluation of collective worship. We ensure that our collective school grows out of the local context and out of children’s and adults’ experiences, including their cultural backgrounds.

Invitational

We aim for our worship to be consistently invitational. There is no compulsion for children or adults to do or say anything that makes them feel uncomfortable. We provide opportunities for children and adults to engage whilst allowing the freedom of those of different faiths and those who profess

no religious faith to be present and to engage with integrity. Children and adults are only invited to pray if they wish to do so and are invited to pray in their own way. Invitation to prayer is always to be accompanied by the option to reflect.

Music and liturgies used in collective worship reflect the best of traditional and modern Anglican worship. It connects with the theme wherever possible. They are used to enable children and adults to explore the sacred, to educate and engage. We strive to choose music to reflect the diverse worship experience of the wider Christian community and the spiritual life of our school.

Inspiring

Children and adults can expect the worship they encounter in our school to be inspirational. Worship should enable children and adults to ask big questions about who we are and why we do what we do. It should motivate children and adults into action, into thinking differently, and into reflecting on their and the wider community's behaviour and actions. As a result of inspirational Collective Worship, we aim for children and adults to be inspired to become courageous advocates for justice. Collective Worship will encourage them to think searchingly about their faith, beliefs and/or philosophical convictions.

Right to Withdraw

We acknowledge that there will always be those who are uncomfortable to enter through this open door of worship in our schools. The Church of England recognises the right of withdrawal from Collective Worship for those children or adults who wish to exercise this option. Parents wishing to exercise their right to withdraw their child (ren) should contact the Headteacher to discuss this.

Aims and Objectives -

Collective Worship in our Church of England school will:

- Explore our Christian Vision and how that underpins shared values and virtues. In doing so, it will reflect on our core Christian Values (above) and develop virtues such as resilience, respect, resourcefulness, and readiness to learn, together with determination and creativity that develop character and contribute to spiritual and academic flourishing for children and adults.
- Help children and adults to appreciate the relevance of faith in today's world by encountering the teachings of Jesus and the Bible and developing understanding of the Christian belief in the trinitarian nature of God.
- Offer the opportunity, without compulsion, to all children and adults to grow spiritually through experiences of prayer, stillness, worship, and reflection.
- Enable all children and adults to appreciate that Christians worship in different ways, for example using music, silence, story, prayer, reflection, as well as through the varied liturgical and other traditions of Anglican worship, festivals and, where appropriate, the Eucharist.
- Enable children and adults to work together to develop their skills through engaging in the planning, leading and evaluation of Collective Worship in ways that lead to improving practice.

Provision -

The rhythm of daily worship in our school allows children and adults to step away from the rigour of the classroom, creating a space for an encounter with faith in God. It also provides the opportunity to reflect on larger questions of meaning and purpose. Our school's Collective Worship practices provide a shared set of symbols, signs, words and actions and traditions which give our whole school community a language upon which it can draw, in times of joy and grief. Collective Worship is key to fostering a sense of fellowship and cohesion within our school community. Whether in times of crisis or celebration, this time set aside in the school day provides staff and pupils with the opportunity to gather and support one another as a community. Throughout the year, we meet to celebrate and mark seasons in the Church calendar, such as Lent and Advent. Other important events in the school year, such as the start and end of the academic year, are marked with special services, often in Polesworth Abbey.

Children and adults will encounter the practice of regular prayer and worship as a normal part of the life of the school. These activities help provide a rhythm and stillness as a pattern of community life. Worship in our school will follow a recognisable structure that will help focus worship on important themes. We use a welcome or prayer followed by a consideration of a Bible passage or story that we can then reflect on through discussion, prayer, silent reflection or music. It will be something that children and adults may want to share and discuss with others in school, in the community and at home. In this way worship overflows into our lives and choices.

The general pattern of our worship reflects that of an Anglican church service:

Gather	Gathering in a space with others	Stillness Peace Reflection Together/community Welcome Releasing Expecting Setting the atmosphere	<i>Instrumental music Images A question to think about Worship songs to join in Lighting candles Bringing things to the worship table including liturgical colours Liturgical or other greeting</i>
Engage	Engaging, getting involved	Hearing Seeing Learning Wondering Asking Questioning Experiences Sharing Thinking	<i>Bible stories Other stories Images Film/drama News Vision and values Talk partners Something to hold Church calendar Community joys and sorrows</i>
Respond	Responding to an invitation	Taking action Acting for oneself Acting for others Living differently Putting something right	<i>Known prayers Prepared prayers Responsive prayers Sung prayers In the moment prayers Sensory prayers</i>

		<p>Making a change Making a commitment Worshipping Praying Thinking about what I can learn about God, myself, others, the world</p>	<p><i>Prayer walk</i> <i>Teaspoon prayers (TSP)</i> <i>Hand of prayer</i> <i>Prayer</i> <i>tree/box/space/garden</i> <i>Fill the blank prayers</i> <i>Meditation</i></p>
Send	Sending out/living life differently	<p>Being inspired to: Live well or differently To pass the message on To encourage and be encouraged To love and be loved To value and be valued To make a difference <i>To make the world a little more like God intended</i></p>	<p><i>Known prayers</i> <i>Sending liturgy</i> <i>Take aways</i> <i>Clergy blessing</i> <i>Sing as you leave</i> <i>Leave in silence</i> <i>Leave when ready</i> <i>Leave to music</i></p>

Our pattern for worship:

Monday	Members of SLT	Whole school	Vision Values Church year
Tuesday	Class Teachers Phase Leaders	EYFS/ KS1 Class Worship KS2 Singing Worship	Half termly theme Songs for the following week
Wednesday	Phase Leaders Class Teachers	EYFS/ KS1 Singing Worship KS2 Class Worship	Songs for the following week Half termly theme
Thursday	Clergy	Whole school	Vision Values Church year Lectionary
Friday	Members of SLT	Whole school Shine Worship	Celebrating our achievements, community and lived out Christian values

Developing our staff expertise and knowledge -

Within the context of our resources, we work to build up the expertise of staff, children, clergy, and other adults in facilitating Collective Worship in our school. We strive to ensure that:

- Worship leaders, including clergy, have access to regular training, primarily through the diocesan education team.
- Pupil worship leaders are supported, encouraged, and resourced to contribute to meaningful acts of worship.
- Worship leaders, including clergy, have access to high quality and current resources.
- Those from outside agencies and church groups invited into the school to facilitate are properly briefed about the school, its children, context and the school's Christian vision and values.

Monitoring and Evaluation -

- The governing body (LAB) ensures monitoring of the impact of collective worship; this monitoring includes and meaningfully involves children and staff voice.
- There is a named member of staff responsible for Collective Worship who ensures that appropriate policy and practice are in place and publicly available. This is Miss A Deakin (deputy Headteacher.)

References:

Church of England vision for education:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/about/education-and-schools/vision-education>

Church of England Education Office guidance on collective worship:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2021-05/Collective%20Worship%20Guidance%2018052021.pdf>

Date of policy: Summer Term 2023

Renewal date: Summer Term 2026

Appendices:

Termly plans

Main resources

Roots and fruits (Imaginor)