



Neatishead, Salhouse & Fleggburgh Federation

Collective Worship Policy

Our schools aim to be happy and safe places where everyone shares a love of learning. Our Christian core values of respect, responsibility, courage, trust, perseverance and compassion underpin all we do.

'Soar on Wings'

Formally adopted by the Governing Board	
On:-	18th March 2020
Chair of Governors	R Barker
Date for review:-	March 2022

Our school is the secure base from which we ‘soar on wings’ to realise our ambitions.

Through valuing one another and the world in which we live, we flourish.

Through providing rich opportunities, we can imagine fulfilling futures.

Through a shared love of learning, we transform lives.

Roles and Accountabilities

The governing body is accountable for all policies across its federation. All policies will be written and implemented in line with our ethos and values. We are committed to the provision of high quality education in the context of the Christian values where individuals are valued, aspirations are high, hope is nurtured and talents released.

The Executive Headteacher is responsible for the implementation of policies.

All employees of the federation are subject to its policies.

Policy Statement

As a Church of England school, worship is an affirmation and celebration of our Christian ethos where children have the opportunity to learn, worship and grow in their understanding of God and of themselves.

We believe that at its heart, Collective Worship enables pupils and staff to gather together to respond to the presence, power and peace of God through prayer, reflection, singing, sharing, celebrating and communicating feelings.

Worship should enable participants to develop an understanding of Jesus Christ and God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

The Legal Requirements

We seek to comply with the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 (Section 70 and Schedule 20) which requires that:

- All registered pupils (apart from those whose parents exercise the right to withdrawal) will take part in a daily act of Collective Worship.
- The daily act of Collective Worship should be consistent with the beliefs and practices of the Church of England.
- All acts of Collective Worship are Christian in character. Pupils can be grouped in various ways for worship such as the whole school, classes, or other combinations
- Acts of worship are appropriate for the pupils in that they should take account of the pupils' age, aptitude and family backgrounds.
- The daily act of Collective Worship will normally take place on the school premises but may take place elsewhere (e.g. the local Parish Church) on special occasions.
- Responsibility for the arrangement of Collective Worship in a Church of England school rests with the Local Governing Body in consultation with the Executive Headteacher. The Executive Headteacher has a responsibility to ensure that all arrangements for Collective Worship are secured.

Anglican Faith and Practice

In addition to the above, we seek to provide acts of Collective Worship that reflect the faith and practice of the Church of England therefore:

We use the Bible as a sourcebook for inspiration and learning and make pupils familiar with the Lord's Prayer, psalms and other verses of scripture. We also introduce them to a variety of well-known prayers – many of which express the central beliefs of Christians throughout the ages.

We use aspects of Anglican liturgy to create a framework for worship. We use Christian symbols as a focus for reflection and provide opportunities to discover the value of meditation, reflection and silence. We observe the cycle of the Anglican year including celebrations of the major Christian festivals.

In the federation we aim to provide a worship space which is attractive and well prepared with appropriate thought having been given to colour, space, seating, ambience and music.

We foster links with the local Parish Church, involving the church teams in leading collective worship and providing coherence between worship in church and school and visit at regular intervals throughout the year as part of the Christian calendar.

Connections with other Christian denominations and faiths

Across the federation, we work to promote links with other local churches and Christian organisations and welcome their clergy and leaders as contributors to acts of collective worship. We recognise that while some of our pupils and families belong to Anglican churches, many worship regularly at churches of other Christian denominations, while others come from different faith backgrounds or none. We endeavour to provide a setting in which the integrity of those present is not compromised, where everyone finds something positive for themselves and there is no pressure to participate inappropriately or to believe.

Rights and Responsibilities

As established by the 1944 Act and reinforced through this policy, parents have the right to withdraw their children from Collective Worship. However, having chosen to send their children to Neatishead, Salhouse and Fleggburgh schools it is expected that no one will exercise this right. Should such a situation arise, appropriate arrangements would be made in keeping with the requirements of the Act.

Aims and Purpose

The aims and purpose of Collective Worship as defined by the Education Reform Act 1988 are as follows:

- To provide an opportunity for the children to worship God
- To enable children to consider spiritual and moral issues
- To enable children to explore their own beliefs
- To encourage participation and response
- To develop in children a sense of community spirit

To develop in children a sense of global citizenship

- To promote a common ethos with shared values and to reinforce positive attitudes

Planning

Planning for Collective Worship is led by the Head of School, Executive Headteacher and the SIAMS lead and is undertaken in consultation with the staff teams and ethos groups and underpinned by the federation's Christian core values of respect, responsibility, courage, compassion, trust and perseverance. The headteacher and senior leaders ensure that visiting speakers receive copies of the plans. Individuals and groups are responsible for using the plans as a basis for developing their own short term plans for individual acts of worship.

Organisation

An act of Collective Worship is held daily. This may involve the whole school or smaller classes or key stage groups. Where collective worship forms part of an assembly, we ensure that there is a clear distinction between the two elements of gathering.

Staff together with groups of children take turns to conduct Collective Worship. Representatives from local churches lead acts of collective worship.

We conduct Collective Worship in a dignified and respectful way expecting children to behave appropriately. We create a suitable atmosphere by using music, pictures or other artefacts to act as a focal point. The three schools celebrate children's achievements during regular celebration assemblies. These play an important role in promoting the ethos of the three schools. Current events are explained and explored with children. We invite parents to our celebration assemblies to see their children receive their awards. Singing and music are a valued part of assemblies. Governors are also welcome to attend acts of worship at any time.

Resources

There is a wide selection of assembly books and artefacts which we regularly update and improve. We provide suitable interesting and engaging music as children enter and leave the hall as well as to accompany singing.

Contribution to Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development

We recognise that although SMSC development should be fostered across the whole curriculum, acts of Collective Worship provide a multitude of opportunities in this area. For example, children will be encouraged to reflect on and celebrate the deeper meanings of life, consider their own behaviour and recognise the need for forgiveness, appreciate the contributions of others and respond to their needs, value their own culture and the cultures of others.

Monitoring and Evaluation

We aim to develop the monitoring and evaluation of Collective Worship by continuing to keep records of Collective Worship and surveying adults and children as to their views on its effectiveness. We intend to make the criteria for successful worship available to all those who plan and lead it before asking them to submit short term plans. The coordinator and others will routinely observe and monitor acts of Collective Worship in line with these criteria.

Inclusion

We are committed to equality of opportunity regardless of race, gender, cultural background, ability or any physical or sensory disability. We therefore aim to make Collective Worship accessible to all and accommodate ourselves to individual needs when appropriate. As when teachers prepare lessons, worship leaders take account of different learning styles and aim to present materials using multi-sensory approaches.

Implementation of Policy

The Executive Headteacher and Heads of School as Collective Worship Coordinators are responsible for this policy which will be reviewed every two years. Its implementation is the responsibility of all those planning and leading Collective Worship.

Review

This policy will be reviewed every two years. It will be published on the website alongside the Religious Education Policy and Behaviour Policy.