

Newchurch St Mary's CE Primary Academy



Learning through faith

Vision Statement

“At St Mary’s, we believe that ordinary people can choose to be extraordinary people”

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

Ethos

Our school provides grounding in the Christian Faith for all its children with emphasis on collective worship as part of its daily life. Our Christian values of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control are built into the ethos and teaching of our school, with the support of all Governors and staff for its Christian foundation. We also seek to encourage an understanding and respect for other world faiths.

PURPOSE

This policy reflects the values, ethos and Mission Statement of Newchurch St Mary’s, A Church of England Academy in relation to Collective Worship. It is consistent with the school’s agreed aims and objectives and sets out a framework within which teaching and support staff can operate. This policy document should be read in conjunction with the “Guidelines for Collective Worship” document which provides further details and advice on the following areas.

- Adult roles and expected behaviour
- Details of Organisation of Collective Worship
- Resources/materials available
- Special acts of collective worship

AUDIENCE

This document is intended to give a clear outline of the school’s approach to the Collective Worship to all staff, governors, Cidari and parents. It is also intended for the use of the Blackburn Diocesan Board of Education when assisting the development of the school’s curriculum and for any authorised inspector. Copies of this document are provided for all teaching staff and are available when necessary to support staff, members of the School’s Governing Committee and Cidari members. A copy of this document is available for the use of parents.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

At Newchurch St Mary’s, we aim to foster a lifelong love of learning, through adopting a highly practical and cross curricular approach to learning. **Being a Church of England school, we aim to fulfil all the requirements of the National Curriculum and the Diocesan Syllabus for Religious Education.**

We are proud of being a Church academy at the heart of our local community – a place where everyone is valued, respected and encouraged to develop resilience and confidence. Our strong ethos strives to ensure that each pupil achieves their very best.

Academically – through a knowledge rich, focussed and sequenced curriculum.

Culturally – through an extensive programme of extra curricular activities and visits.

Spiritually – through an ethos of interdependence that flows through the life of both the academy and the wider community.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

To ensure that daily Collective Worship is seen as a central and important part of the education of this school as determined by the Mission Statement.

- To enable all children to experience the togetherness and reverence of joining in acts of Collective Worship.
- To ensure that Collective Worship is provided in line with a broad traditional Anglican framework as set out in the School's Trust Deeds.
- To be mindful of the sensitivities of pupils from other faiths in our school community and whilst recognising that most acts of Collective Worship will draw upon Christian Traditions, we shall be aware of the evidence of God's Spirit in other religions.

The Objectives of Collective Worship Are:

- To encourage all pupils to grow in Christian goodness.
- To encourage children to participate in Collective Worship through sharing their own sensitivities and thoughts.
- To allow pupils to experience and explore the spirituality of traditional and contemporary prayer.
- To provide acts of collective worship in a variety of settings, e.g. Classroom, Hall, Church as appropriate, outside in the Worship Garden.
- To give pupils experience of traditional and contemporary worship styles.
- To allow pupils to experience traditional and contemporary religious music, hymns and songs.
- To provide a framework in which stories from Christian and other faith backgrounds can be explored to illustrate moral and spiritual dimensions.
- Through silence and meditation, give children the opportunity to reflect upon their thoughts and their relationship with God.

THE ORGANISATION OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP AT Newchurch St Mary's CE Primary Academy

In order to achieve the above aims, all teaching staff, support staff, and parents are expected to set a positive example and to encourage children to fully participate in collective worship.

All children should experience an act of Collective Worship at some point during each school day. This may be class based, Key Stage based, or whole school. During the year, services will be arranged in school and Church to celebrate the passage of the Christian Year.

All teaching staff will be expected to attend acts of Collective Worship and lead them as directed by the Headteacher. The school's Vicar will also lead acts of worship, and members of other faith communities will be invited to share our worship where appropriate.

Collective Worship themes will be run on a four-yearly cycle in KS2 and a 2 year cycle in KS1. An overall theme will be given to Worship each half-term and acts of worship will follow this theme. The theme will be clearly communicated to the children at every act of worship, allowing links to be made between PSHEC and RE. Special events in the Christian calendar will be celebrated, as will the festivals of other world faiths.

The subject leader is responsible for planning the half-termly theme and providing suggested ideas for staff to use when leading worship. The plan is displayed on the Collective Worship board in the staff room. Staff will indicate the worship they are to lead, as directed by the Headteacher.

THE ALLOCATION OF TIME TO COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

An act of Collective Worship is enjoyed each day at 1pm, when special services are arranged suitable timing will be agreed. During any school day staff may take time with their class to reflect upon incidents or issues that may need a period of quiet reflection or thought.

RESPONSIBILITIES

- All relevant staff will ensure that Collective Worship is implemented in accordance with this policy;
- The Head teacher is responsible for ensuring that this policy is adhered to;
- Cidari Multi Academy Trust and the governing committee will monitor the effectiveness of this policy and hold the Head teacher to account for its implementation.

INCLUSION AND EQUALITY

Collective Worship is planned in order to set high expectations for all pupils.

- More able pupils

- Pupils with low prior attainment
- Pupils from disadvantaged backgrounds
- Pupils with SEN
- Pupils with English as an additional language (EAL)

Collective Worship is planned to ensure that there are no barriers to every pupil achieving.

We believe all our children are entitled to benefit from equal access to work and equipment within collective worship regardless of race, gender, intellectual and physical ability, in line with the nine protected characteristics.

To ensure equality for all, teachers are committed to planning worship that:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation;
- Promote equality of access and opportunity within our school and within our wider community;
- Promote positive attitudes to difference and good relationships between people with different backgrounds, genders, cultures, faiths, abilities and ethnic origins.

SPIRITUAL, MORAL, SOCIAL, CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT AND BRITISH VALUES

The school sets out to plan a provision for Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development, but it is also expected that many unplanned opportunities will occur (especially for spiritual development) and staff are encouraged to "seize the moment" when appropriate. Such moments may have a profound effect on individuals.

The promotion of the 'British Values' of

- Democracy
- The rule of law
- Individual liberty
- Mutual respect
- Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs

is central to our education as British Values have their origin in the Christian values of our nation.

EARLY YEARS

Reception children should be involved in collective acts of worship activities at an appropriate level with appropriate interest. Working with Blackburn Diocese appropriate resources have been purchased to work in conjunction with children's learning and the EYFS Framework 2023. Reception attend whole school acts of Collective Worship from the Spring Term.

RECORD KEEPING, ASSESSMENT AND REPORTING

Acts of collective worship are evaluated termly by the teaching team, the Pupils invited to evaluate worship, will complete a child-friendly proforma. All evaluations will then be used by the Collective Worship leader to inform future planning and practice. All special acts of worship, children's contributions during worship and assemblies are collected and saved

centrally in our RE scrapbook which are available for all stakeholders to look through.

SAFETY

At all times, staff will consider the safety of pupils and this will be reflected in classroom organisation, and adherence to school procedures and practices.

SAFEGUARDING

Safeguarding in school feeds through the curriculum. Staff are aware that certain topics covered within Collective Worship may prompt discussion or work in books relating to children's personal experiences and relationships. If a child discloses something that is a concern, staff will follow the procedures in place as outlined in the Safeguarding policy.

EXPECTATIONS

At all times, staff will expect and demand that pupils behave during Collective Worship in a way which fully reflects the reflective, respectful nature of worship and contribute, where appropriate, to the best of their abilities.

PARENTAL RIGHTS OF WITHDRAWAL IN A VOLUNTARY AIDED SCHOOL

Parents may withdraw their children from Collective Worship as they may in any school. The Church of England Board of Education and the Methodist Church states that:

'The Worship and Religious Education provided by the school is in accordance with the Church of England or Methodist Church Foundation. This foundation is also reflected in the curriculum and the whole life of the school community. Since the conduct of the school as a whole reflects the Church of England or Methodist Church ethos, removal of pupils from Worship and/or Religious Education (as parents are legally entitled to do) cannot insulate them from the religious life of the school.'

If such a request for withdrawal is made, the Headteacher should explore the reasons for the request and seek to arrive at an accommodation. It may be that only some elements of Worship are objected to.

Policy updated by Pauline Nightingale and Gabrielle Hacking – June 2024

Agreed by Governors June 2024

Next review date: June 2026