

THE FEDERATION OF NETTLESTONE & NEWCHURCH PRIMARY SCHOOLS



COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

Date Agreed: April 2017

Review Date: April 2018

DMF Bollett

Signed: _____

Chairman Board of Governors

The Federation of Nettlestone & Newchurch Primary Schools

Revision No.	Date Issued	Prepared By	Approved	Comments
1	July 2014	KJH		Revision of Policy in line with Federation with Nettlestone Primary School.
2	June 2015	KJH		Annual update - minor changes
3	September 2015	KJH		Reviewed format of assemblies noted
4	April 2016	KJH		Reviewed to include reference to life in Modern Britain and inclusion of arrangements for withdrawal
5	April 2017	KJH		

All the governors and staff of The Federation of Nettlestone & Newchurch Primary Schools are committed to sharing a common objective to help keep the children and staff of the school community safe. We ensure that consistent effective safeguarding procedures are in place in order to support families, children and staff of the school.

Collective Worship Policy

1 Policy Statement : Collective Worship

It is a legal requirement that all pupils attend a daily act of worship unless their parents have exercised their right to withdraw them from this activity. Parents will be given access to this policy so that they may make an informed decision.

Equality and Diversity

In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act the majority of these acts of worship must be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character' and reflect the traditions of Christian belief. However, we conduct our assemblies in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs of all members of the school community.

It is the duty of the Executive Headteacher and the Governing Body to see that these arrangements are carried out.

Within the Federation of Nettlestone & Newchurch Primary Schools we believe that acts of worship are an integral part of a broad and enriched curriculum to which all of our children are entitled.

Worship is a universal human activity which can be expressed as a growing ability to celebrate and reflect on things held to be of worth. For many people worship involves commitment to a belief in God. However, it can have a much broader inclusive meaning.

It can be a form of human activity when we purposely put ourselves in the position of paying particular attention to those things in life which have the greatest meaning for us. It should enable children to explore and reflect upon feelings that occur out of experience.

When planning worship we should have regard for pupils' ages, aptitudes and family background. Within the Federation of Nettlestone & Newchurch Primary Schools we have pupils from secular backgrounds as well as those from a variety of strong religious traditions and we value the contributions which all groups make.

The aims and purposes of collective worship within our school communities are to:

- Develop an awareness and understanding of the spiritual dimension of life;
- Develop a moral and caring attitude and code of conduct;
- Develop openness and empathy;
- Experience a feeling of togetherness and sharing;
- Explore feelings such as awe, wonder, mystery and joy;
- Celebrate special occasions;
- Celebrate the work and achievements of themselves and others;
- Celebrate the beliefs, attitudes and values held to be of central concern to our community;
- Understand and appreciate the diversity of faiths in our school community;
- Think of the needs of others;
- Pause for reflection and/or prayer;
- Respond to a variety of stimuli;
- Revere or respect a divine being or power;
- Develop a sense of sharing, unity and belonging, honesty, integrity, forgiveness, compassion and love;
- Experience stillness and quiet.
- Teach children how to worship.

2. Guidelines for Implementation

Collective worship must be daily for all pupils unless their parents have decided to withdraw them. In these cases the pupils must be supervised by a member of the staff team.

Collective worship may be at any time of the day and in whatever groupings. Within the Federation the groupings will include whole school, key stages, year groups and individual classes.

We aim to create an atmosphere of calmness prior to and during assemblies. Children are therefore expected to be silent upon entering the hall. Music linked to the current value of the week will often be played whilst children are entering or leaving the hall to provide an atmosphere for individual reflection.

We value links between both school communities and the home, church, community and worldwide. We encourage positive behaviour, respect for others, care for the environment and care for the extended school family.

We regularly invite parents and other member of each school community to our celebrations in both schools. This promotes community spirit of each school and is a practical demonstration of the way the home and the schools work and celebrate together.

3. Principles

The essential principles which apply to any act of worship are **reflection, response** and **reverence**.

Reflection

Time should be taken to reflect on a stimulus. To focus attention the person leading the assembly may, for example, show a picture, play some music, ask for stillness or read an evocative poem or story. The aim is to identify a time which is respected by all present and which enables pupils and staff to reflect on a particular issue.

Response

Worship demands a level of involvement, but involvement in worship is ultimately the decision of each individual. Nevertheless, it is important to provide opportunities which can be responded to in some way. Pupils' responses may be expressed through silent thoughts, or more overtly by responding to questions, repeating or reciting responses, prayer, singing together, story reading, drama, poetry, video, music, movement or dance. Pupils should see that they, as well as members of staff and visitors, can take on a variety of roles in collective worship such as leadership, contribution and participation.

Reverence

Creating a sense of reverence can be seen as a culmination of the other elements involved in worship. It can be directed towards the recognition of a supreme being, or the recognition, affirmation and celebration of the worthiness of those realities and values held to be of central importance to our community.

4. Success Criteria

In our monitoring and evaluation of collective worship we look for the subsequent criteria as evidence of a successful and meaningful act of worship:

- A variety of strategies are used regularly in order to engage the children's interest.
- A reflective and peaceful mood that matches the theme.
- Children are silent.
- Positive response to the shared experience.

- Children are comfortable.
- Children participate enthusiastically with confidence.
- The development of respect and tolerance within the school community.
- Enrichment of children's experience.

5. Themes

There is an annual programme of themes which include fortnightly values such as honesty, friendship, hope, simplicity, courage, links to national celebrations and links to all faiths. There is flexibility within the timetable to allow the inclusion of current and topical issues. Presenters including representatives from faiths, will base their assemblies around the value choices as far as possible which are contained as appendices to these guidelines. The variety of themes covered will ensure that children are prepared well for life in modern Britain and the explicit reference to traditional British values and SMSC are shared on the planning template.

Themes will include the major festivals of several religions.

e.g.

<u>Week Beginning</u>		<u>Theme</u>	<u>British Value</u>
Mon 28 th Feb	<u>HONESTY</u>	<u>World Book Week</u> Fairtrade Fortnight 1 st March St Davids Day 3 rd March World Book Day 5 th March St Piran's Day	Democracy Individual Liberty Rule of Law Tolerance Mutual Respect
Mon 7 th March		<u>Being Kind</u> 9 th March No Smoking Day Crufts!	Democracy Individual Liberty Rule of Law Tolerance Mutual Respect
Mon 14 th March	<u>COURAGE</u>	<u>Being Reliable</u> 14 th March Commonwealth Day 17 th March St Patrick's Day	
Mon 21 st March		<u>Being Aware of the world around us!</u> Mental Health Action Week March 20 th Earth Day March 20 th Spring Begins March 21 st World Poetry Day March 22 nd World Water Day March 25 th Daffodil Day	Democracy Individual Liberty Rule of Law Tolerance Mutual Respect
Mon 28 th March	<u>SIMPLICITY</u>	<u>Being Healthy</u>	
Mon 4 th April		<u>Being Part of a Family</u> National Pet Month 3 rd April - Mother's Day 7 th April - World Health Day	Individual Liberty Mutual Respect

Across the Federation our acts of worship also celebrate the achievement and learning of the children. We encourage the children to participate further in celebrations by showing their work to other children and raising issues that they have discussed in their

classes. These celebrations offer an opportunity to acknowledge and reward children for their achievement both in and out of school. They play an important part in promoting the ethos of each school which is that all children are valued and all achievements are recognised. We celebrate the success of all of the children in our assemblies regardless of race, gender, ability or faith background and use the opportunity to prepare the children well for life in modern Britain.

6. Staff

Members of staff are encouraged to stay for acts of worship, especially celebration assemblies and those involving visitors or children as presenters.

A staff rota in each school demonstrates who will lead the assembly on each day. Wherever possible the Head of School will lead the Celebration Assemblies in each school and will commence the collective worship, introducing the theme/value at the start of each week.

7. Withdrawal

Our assemblies will be conducted in a manner that is sensitive and inclusive and will ensure that all children feel comfortable in attending the assembly, however parents/carers have the right to withdraw their child from any act or acts of Collective Worship.

Those wishing to make such a request are encouraged to do so in writing to the Executive Headteacher detailing:

- a) Any particular concerns they may have and
- b) Any practical arrangements for the withdrawal

8. Monitoring & Review:

It is the role of the governing body to monitor the policy and practice of collective worship across the federation.