

# Naburn CE Primary School



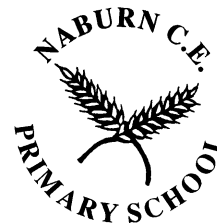
## Collective Worship Policy

Date of Last Review: March 2017

Date of Next Review: March 2020

Date of TLC Meeting:

Date of FGB Meeting: 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2017



"The act of collective worship fulfils many functions in the life of a primary school – it's a time for collective singing, an opportunity to celebrate individual or collective success or achievement, a 'noticeboard' for forthcoming events. Above all it gives the whole school the chance simply to come together and meet as a unified group. The essence of the coming together is undoubtedly the sharing of a common experience, very often built around a core religious or moral theme."

Alan Clark – *Collective Worship Unwrapped*

## **Rationale**

Christian values are at the heart of Naburn CE Primary School and worship is conducted in accordance with the principles and practice of the Church of England. It pays due regard to statutory requirements and has taken account of the guidance offered by the Diocesan guidelines.

## **Aim**

Our aim through Worship is to make our children aware of what it means to be a community committed to serving and caring for each other, God and our world.

We hope to achieve

- the celebration of all that is good and beautiful, in an expression of thankfulness
- the sharing of what is meaningful and significant to our children, reflecting and learning from their own experiences and the experiences of others
- the opportunity for all children to worship God, in an experience rooted in our shared Christian values
- involvement in a rich variety of forms of expression e.g. drama, music and story
- the sharing of common concerns and responsibilities, focusing on our spiritual, moral, social and cultural development and so developing the sense of community of all participants
- time for silent reflection and exploration
- affirmation of the equality of each individual in God's sight

## Guidelines

1. Collective Worship should have a sense of occasion. We prepare for this special time in the day. Children are encouraged to listen to music whilst waiting to begin Worship and three candles are lit as a focus at the beginning.
2. There is a focal point for Collective Worship in the hall, with a cross, Bibles, items relating to the theme, a prayer tree, candles and a 'holding cross' for any child in need or to promote good behaviour. The cloth is changed to reflect the church's calendar.
3. The SIAMs co-ordinator (Headteacher) plans themes for Worship and liaises with local clergy, Yo-Yo and Open the Book teams. These themes are based on our Christian values, together with the Christian calendar, whilst also celebrating the festivals of other faiths. Global events/issues are also included in planning. Music, songs and hymns link with the themes and resources used are displayed on our Worship Board in the hall.
4. Collective Worship is led by teachers, children, the local Vicar, the Open the Book Team, Yo-Yo and sometimes by visitors (such as a local missionary who visits to keep us updated about a school we have a link with in Malawi).
5. Worship takes place in a variety of ways: prayer, reflection, song, story, drama, music, poetry etc. Sometimes it is quiet and contemplative and at other times it may be loud with laughter and joy.
6. We have special celebrations at St Matthew's Church throughout the year, when families, friends and the Church Family are invited to join us, such as Harvest and Christingle. We also take part in services at St Helen's Church in Stillingfleet and sometimes worship takes place in the Village Hall, where there is more space.
7. Children are given many opportunities for prayer. All our children are invited, but are not compelled to pray:
  - (a) they are offered moments of silence during Collective Worship
  - (b) they say a 'lunchtime prayer' in class at the end of the morning
  - (c) they may write and share their own prayers to be used in class
  - (d) they say the school prayer at the end of Collective Worship.
8. Resources for Collective Worship are kept in the Headteacher's Office and also stored centrally on the school server.
9. All teachers lead acts of Worship at Naburn CE Primary
10. Organisational arrangements:

Worship takes place every day, as follows:

Monday – Whole school Collective Worship to launch the week's focus

Tuesday – Singing Worship led by the Music Co-ordinator

Wednesday – Whole School Worship led by Open the Book or the local vicar

Thursday – Class worship led by the class teacher or children

Friday – Celebration Worship where we celebrate achievements in the week and recap the week's focus.

### **Monitoring and Evaluation**

The theme and content of Collective Worship is recorded and shared with all staff and visitors who will be partaking in Collective Worship during that term.

Our Diocesan Advisor has advised us on ways to develop our Worship and these ideas are constantly being reviewed and carried through.

Evaluation of the effectiveness of Collective Worship will include:

- Day to day observation of children's attentiveness and level of interest by staff and the Headteacher
- Specific monitoring of Collective Worship by the Headteacher, Worship Team, Vicar, SIAMs Review Group, staff and the Diocesan Advisor
- Discussions with children
- Link visits by Governors (any governor visiting to look at their subject is encouraged to stay for Worship and view this as part of their visit).

### **Right of withdrawal**

Any parent can request permission for their child to be withdrawn from an act of Worship. Should such a request be made, the parent will be invited to discuss the matter with the Headteacher, in order that necessary arrangements can be made and to ensure that the practical implications of withdrawal are appreciated.

"The act of collective worship can, and should be the best part of any school day. The joys and concerns of the school, and the world, should be allowed to permeate the worship, and this in turn should infect the whole of school life. An ideal, perhaps, but one worth trying to achieve."

Sharon Swain: *Christian Assemblies for Primary Schools*

This policy will be monitored by the Teaching and Learning Committee.