

# COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY



## NORTHAM SCHOOLS' FEDERATION

### Vision

**To enable all within the Northam Schools' Federation to learn together, support each other and celebrate life.**

### Motto

**To learn every day, to help each other and to be happy.**

### Introduction

At the Northam Schools' Federation we believe that Collective Worship plays a very important role in the life of our school: It signals the life, energy and Christian spirit of our school. It is a time when the whole school community can gather together to honour and worship God, celebrate all aspects of school life, support our curriculum and to provide an opportunity for stillness and reflection in what is often a very busy, active day for our children.

### Aims

Within Northam Schools' Federation Collective Worship we aim to:

- Provide our children with regular opportunities for stillness and reflection
- Strengthen and support the school community and celebrate each unique member made in the image of God.
- Give expression to, reaffirm and practise the value of the school community.
- Allow reflection and response to fundamental questions of life and things that are of eternal concern and value to human beings.
- Contribute to the personal, social and health education of the pupils
- Celebrate the values and worth of the school community and all who belong in it, including the sharing of the gifts and talents of our children.
- Help children develop an understanding both of the nature and language of worship
- Support the broader curriculum through the use of art, music, dance, story, drama and other visual and oral means of communication.
- Foster and enable a concern for the needs of others
- Provide members of the school community with the opportunity to:
  - Praise and reach out to God
  - Experience stillness and quiet
  - Respond to Christian language and symbolism
  - Experience a variety of forms of prayer
  - Develop, strengthen and nurture their spirituality

Spirituality starts with where children are and where they'll be when they move on. Spirituality is a life-long journey.

## **The Legal Position**

In accordance with legal requirements (Schools Standards & Framework Act 1998) an act of collective worship, taking account of the age, aptitude and background of pupils, is provided daily for all pupils except those withdrawn by parents. Furthermore, acts of worship “must be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character, i.e. reflect the broad traditions of Christian belief.” The federation expects that withdrawal will only be made following discussions with the Executive Headteacher, followed by written confirmation of withdrawal. The federation has a system of suitable supervision for children withdrawn from the act of collective worship. In an aided school the staff are expected to attend the act of worship.

## **Rationale**

### **Our vision is:**

To enable all within the Northam Schools' Federation to learn together, support each other and celebrate life.

### **Our motto is:**

To learn every day, to help each other and to be happy.

### **Our mission is to:**

- Ensure that the Christian faith is integral to our provision with love underpinning all that we do
- Provide a safe, purposeful, stimulating and aspirational learning environment
- Respect all faiths, languages and cultures.
- Promote the well-being of pupils, staff, parents and governors
- Value the partnership between pupils, staff, parents and governors

At the Northam Schools' Federation we have developed a range of themes and topics through which collective worship takes place. We believe these themes are clearly Christian in nature but are universal in their application. We recognise that in our school we have children from a variety of faith backgrounds and that many children have no religious background at all. Great care is taken in our collective worship to ensure that all children feel valued and special and that their integrity as human beings is consistently upheld. Collective worship is an inclusive activity. Our core Christian value of love underpins all that we do. Collective worship allows children to develop their own level of spirituality. Acts of worship are Christian based, although the beliefs of children from other faiths are respected. The federation will also offer the opportunity to explore, reflect upon and respond to the mystery and meaning of the Christian faith. Our Ethos committee oversee the Christian Distinctiveness of the Federation.

## **Structure of Collective Worship**

In order to promote children's learning, our acts of worship vary. Our pattern is set out below:

Monday	-	Whole school (both schools (Headteacher))
Tuesday	-	St. George's (whole school led by class teacher) St. Margaret's (family group led by class teachers)
Wednesday	-	St. George's (whole school hymn practice led by a teacher) St. Margaret's (whole school collective worship led by a teacher).
Thursday	-	'Open The Book' (both schools)
Friday	-	Whole school celebration worship (celebration of children / conclusion of theme (Deputy Headteacher))

Visitors play an important part in the life of our school and regularly contribute to acts of worship. We record our acts of worship to inform our learning and plan for further developments. We are developing a range of resources to enhance children's learning. These include stories, music, slides, poems, pictures and posters and DVDs all of which we hope contribute to a stimulating and thoughtful time for our children.

## **Planning**

In planning worship, regard is given to:

- Observing the cycle of the church's year (Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Candlemas, Lent, Holy Week, Easter, Ascension, Pentecost) recognising the central significance of the Eucharist.
- How worship reflects the Anglican Heritage i.e.
  - i. Using the Bible as a source book for inspiration & learning
  - ii. Reflecting upon Christian symbols & their use in worship
  - iii. Experience worship in school and church.
- Linking with the broad dimensions of the curriculum.
- Context of biblical text in terms of time sequence, geography and
- relationships between people and people groups.
- Creating an atmosphere by the use of appropriate music, visual foci
- and symbols
- Using the whole range of creative arts (including ICT) to appeal to the
- pupil's imagination.

The Collective Worship schedule is shared with the Governing Body on a termly basis.

## **Recording and Evaluation**

Acts of worship are planned, and recorded. Evaluations are obtained to help assess the impact of Collective Worship.

Monitoring of acts of worship is also obtained by observations by the Worship co-ordinator(s) and the leadership team.

December 2019

Ratified by the Governing Body January 2020