



**Upper Nidderdale Primary Federation
St. Cuthbert's and Fountains Earth Schools'**

Collective Worship Policy

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| Policy: | Collective Worship |
| This policy was approved: | December 2022 |
| This policy will be reviewed: | December 2023 |

At Upper Nidderdale Primary Federation, we will all approach everything we do in the CHAMPS way, help every child flourish into a caring, confident and resilient young person who has a **love of learning** and:

Chooses the right way and takes **responsibility** for their own actions

Honest in everything they do and shows **compassion** for others

Achieves the best they can with the talents they have and develop their **wisdom**

Manners shown to everyone and treats everyone with **respect**

Perseveres when situations are difficult and shows **courage** when they are challenged

Safety and knowing how to keep safe on and offline to ensure that everyone is kept physically and emotionally safe. This shows the special relationship we have with each other, where as a **community**, we look after each other, keeping each other safe – **Koinonia**

Aims and Purpose of Collective Worship

Collective worship is for all pupils at St Cuthbert's and Fountains Earth Primary Schools. It usually forms part of an assembly or its entirety. Collective worship has the potential to unite the whole membership of the school and therefore to develop a sense of community. Collective worship is a part of our school's contribution to promoting the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of every child. It is a time to celebrate the worth and value of every single person in the school community. The implementation of this policy is the responsibility of all staff

Collective worship should be an activity that:

- Is educational and spiritually enhancing, underpinning the spiritual and moral education being given to children.
- Fosters a sense of fellowship by bringing the school community together.
- Offers children the opportunity to worship and creates an atmosphere in which those who wish to worship can do so.
- Encourages a reflective approach to life. Develops a sense of self-worth and value whilst fostering the ability to consider questions for which there are no set answers.
- Introduces children to aspects of religious worship and faith.
- Encourages children to express their responses in a variety of ways.
- Encourages children to recognise the place of a Christian faith in the life of people, particularly in the context of a church school.
- Helps children to develop a sense of awe, curiosity, wonder and mystery.
- Encourages children to be creative, questioning and imaginative, within a Christian framework. Also recognising the importance of experience, personal values and respect for the beliefs of others.

Collective Worship should be inspiring and beneficial to all members of our school communities. It is time when we come together to reflect, learn and worship.

An act of worship is an important part of our whole curriculum and empowers the children to be open to life, feelings, commitment, celebration, values and vision.

Organisation and Planning of Collective Worship

The subject leader for collective worship plans worship in themes linked to Values for life.

Our collective worship

An act of worship is held every day. This takes different forms, such as whole school, individual class or key stage. It takes place in the school hall, classrooms, outdoors or in our local churches on special occasions. Worship may be led by senior leaders, collective worship lead, visitors, Church representatives, teachers or our Pupil Leadership team.

In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act, which states that collective worship should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character', we usually base our Collective Worship on the teachings of Christ and traditions of the Church. This also reflects our status as a church school. However, we conduct our assemblies in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs of all members of the school. While the majority of acts of worship in our school are Christian based, we also hold assemblies that reflect other religions by, for example, celebrating certain festivals. We recognise that many themes covered are common to a number of faiths.

| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
|-----------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|--|------------------|
| Whole School | Class | Whole School | Key Stage | Whole School |
| Christian Value | 'doing' activities linked to value | Father Daryll and Rev. Mike | Age-appropriate activity linked to value | Sharing Assembly |

Physical surroundings are important in creating the right atmosphere for school acts of worship. The use of a focal point helps in creating a special place with the focal point being a cross, the bible and 3 candles. The 3 candles represent God as the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Children sit in a semi-circle during whole school worship.

We take the half-termly theme of our Christian Value and thread this through our theme. These themes tie together traditions of the Christian faith, Bible stories and wider school PSHE /RSE themes. We use Roots from and Fruits to support our whole school Collective Worship. For EYFS and KS1 Key Stage Collective Worship, we use Jack in the Box to retell Bible stories in an age-appropriate way. For KS2 Collective Worship, we use Roots from the Fruits as well as UNICEF.

Sessions, may on occasions, be planned to respond to events within school, or to a particular news item as it arises. At the end of each act of Collective Worship, the theme, story and hymn or song used will be noted in a record book. This will ensure that we provide a balanced range of experiences and stimuli for the children. Feedback is used to make any Policies/Statutory Policies/Collective Worship or the following year.

We have a prayer tree where children, staff, visitors and other members of our community can leave prayers. Members of staff may also include these prayers in our daily acts of Collective Worship. The Collective Worship co-ordinator monitors the prayer tree and will take the necessary action if children leave prayers that cause concern. Collective Worship and Assemblies offer an opportunity to acknowledge and reward children for their achievements both in and out of school. They play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school, which is that all children are valued and all achievements are recognised.

The staff and Governors are committed to ensuring that every child in the school will derive some benefit from collective worship. Our school worship is about sharing what is meaningful and significant in our lives. It is about sharing our common concerns and responsibilities and developing positive attitudes and values. It is about affirming the equality of each individual in God's sight, whatever a child's gender, ethnicity, physical and mental ability – 'every child of God matters everywhere'.

Worship Rhythm

Gathering

Entry in silence to music, welcome and reminder that this is a special time to be together as a community.

Engaging

Stimulus used for talk or discussion with a clear focus to an aspect of the theme.

Responding

An opportunity to reflect on how this might influence their day to day lives. Collective singing of a hymn. Prayer with the invitational words:- I am now going to say a prayer, If you would like to make it your prayer you can join me and say amen at the end.

Sending

Concluded with 'Peace be with you' children can choose to respond if they wish 'and also with you'. Children to lead out in silence to music encouraging reflection as the children leave the hall

Special Worship

There are also special celebrations during the year, where a specified class or whole school leads the collective worship. These are held in the Church where possible or school hall and parents are invited.

- Some acts of worship involve the wider community where an outside speaker comes to highlight projects, needs and activities in which we may take part.
- The principles of collective worship are extended through children saying grace at lunchtime and a prayer at the end of the day from their class prayer books.
- Throughout the year, parents and friends of the school from our local community are invited to special celebrations such as Harvest Festival, Christmas Carol Service, and School Leavers Assembly. This is a practical

demonstration of the way home and the school work together to support the achievements of our children.

- We welcome governors' attendance at our assemblies at any time

From time to time the pupils join in special worship at either St Cuthbert's or St Chad's Churches.

Easter Mothering

Sunday Harvest

Christmas Nativity Service

Families are invited and encouraged to attend on these occasions. Children take part in the services. Parents are invited to join staff and pupils for sharing worship to celebrate the work of pupils from across school on a weekly basis.

Attendance

We recognise that, by law, collective worship must be provided for every child every day. Our aim is that this time is valuable for all members within our school community no matter their background or beliefs. However, any parent can request special permission for their child to be excused from religious worship. This request must be made in writing to the Head teacher.

We expect all children to attend Collective Worship however parents have the right to withdraw their children. Parents wishing to exercise this right will be invited to discuss the matter with the Head teacher. Children who are withdrawn from collective worship will be supervised, however no other form of religious instruction or worship will be offered. Teachers also have the right to withdraw from worship, but it is hoped that teachers will support as a Church of England school and in so doing participate in school collective worship. Staff and pupils share together in worship in order to support the promotion of Christian values. This is discussed at interview. This complies with the 1944 Education Act and was restated in the 1988 Education Reform Act.

Monitoring and Review

Evaluation strategies currently used for assessing the outcomes of collective worship are: Observation of the children's attentiveness and level of interest demonstrated. Classroom feedback from pupils Staff and Parent's comments Observations of the children's general behaviour in and around school and to one another. Feedback via School Council and/or other groups. It is the role of the foundation governors with responsibility for religious education and collective worship to monitor the policy and practice of collective worship. The governors concerned liaise with the Head teacher before reporting to the governors on religious education and collective worship. Specifically, the foundation governors will:

- Contribute to the monitoring and evaluation of Collective Worship
- Provide liaison between school and church
- Build relationships with pupils to enable them to articulate the value of being part of a Church School
- Support the implementation of the school mission and aims statement.