



North Wolds Federation

Collective Worship Policy

October 2024



Our **inclusive school community** puts our **Christian values** at its core and endeavours to develop all members to be **wise, happy and spiritually** aware individuals who can achieve their **dreams and goals**. Working with our **local community**, we **care for** and educate each person, **respecting individual differences**. As Jesus welcomed all, so we **welcome everyone** into our school and strive to send them out prepared to be **good citizens** in today's **diverse society**.

We are preparing for a brighter tomorrow.

Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it.
(Proverbs 22:6)

Caring, Respect, Co-operation, Commitment to Achieve, Honesty, Fairness



Our **inclusive school** is at the heart of our **small community** where all families feel **welcome, valued and supported** as friends.

Working with our local **community** children leave us, ready for their next learning adventure, as **well-rounded** citizens with the skills, knowledge and the **confidence** to be happy and successful for the rest of their lives. We nourish their bodies and characters with our school **values** of respect, cooperation, independence, care, happiness and commitment to achieve.

We ensure they have the armour of our **love** and **guidance** to be the best version of themselves and carry that forward with their actions towards others

Caring, Respect, Commitment to Achieve, Co-operation, Happiness, Independence

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Chair of Governors Signature : **Approved Via Governor Hub**

Policy Review Date : **11/27**

In North Wolds Federation, worship is central to the life of school and is a platform for exploring the school's vision, particularly at Market Rasen Church of England Primary School. It is well planned and of high quality so that the whole school community is engaged on a journey of discovery, exploring the teachings of Jesus and the Bible.

For Christians in church, worship is about honouring God and responding to the loving nature of God as revealed through the Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. A school is not a church but is a collection of people who come from a variety of backgrounds for the purpose of education. The family backgrounds may be very different and Collective Worship must take account of the varied circumstances of staff and pupils.

However, in North Wolds Federation the purpose of Collective Worship will be to lead people to a threshold where they can witness worship and join in, if they wish. Through Collective Worship, pupils will be offered a space and a place for the telling of the Christian story. They will be offered an understanding of worship through being invited to participate in or observe prayer, reading and reflection on the Bible, liturgy, sacrament and experience of the musical and other imaginative riches of Christianity. Opportunities to reflect on the beauty, joy and pain of the world will be given. Pupils will be given time to consider their responsibilities to others and to grow in love and service. Time will be given for celebration, both for the accomplishments of school members and to mark the seasonal festivals of the Christian calendar and those of other faiths. Pupils will be offered time to be able to contemplate and develop spiritually. Collective Worship in our school is invitational, inspirational and inclusive.

What is Collective Worship?

Worship can be defined as paying homage to (revering) that which is of worth ('Worth-ship.'). Religious Worship is the acknowledgement of 'worth' which is attributable to a supreme being.

Therefore, in Church of England schools, opportunities should be provided for children to offer worship to God, through Jesus Christ. We can never make anyone worship because it is an attitude of the heart focused on God; in a school situation we should seek to lead people to the threshold of worship by providing a setting where they may worship God if they so wish.

Collective worship is therefore different both to school assembly and to corporate worship. (see definitions below)

School Assembly is a gathering of the school community; it is often used to celebrate and focus on the life and values of the community itself and is without religious content.

Corporate Worship is a gathering of a body ('corpus') of believers and presupposes a particular religious commitment. When a school, or groups within a school, meet together for worship the activity is unlikely to be corporate worship, where the worshippers are broadly in agreement in their beliefs. Even in a school where the background of the children is Christian, the children may not regard themselves as believers.

Collective Worship is a term only used in schools. It is an act of worship that should be inclusive of everybody, invitational in nature, with an open invitation to participate. It differs in this aspect from voluntary, corporate church worship. There are no assumptions made about shared belief during collective worship, even in a church school. The 1944 Education Act requires schools 'to provide a daily act of collective worship' and it remains a compulsory aspect of daily school life to this day.

Statutory Duty of School

All maintained schools provide daily collective worship for registered pupils (apart from those who have been withdrawn by their parents). This is usually provided within a daily collective worship.

The head teacher is responsible (under the School Standards and Framework Act 1998) for arranging the daily collective worship after consulting with the governing body. Daily collective worship must be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character. The precise nature will depend on the family background, ages and abilities of the pupils. However, if it is inappropriate for some or all of the pupils to take part in Christian collective worship, the head teacher may apply to the local Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) for a determination to have this requirement lifted.

Collective worship in foundation schools with a religious character and voluntary schools will be in accordance with the school's trust deed. Where provision is not made by a trust deed, the worship should be in accordance with the beliefs of the religion or denomination specified for the school.

It is the head teacher's responsibility to ensure the legal requirements for Collective Worship are met.

It is the responsibility of the governing body to ensure that all pupils take part in daily Collective Worship.

Right to Withdraw

Parents have a right to withdraw their children from all or any acts of worship. In the first instance we ask parents who may wish to exercise this right to visit school to speak with the headteacher.

Aims of Collective Worship

Our worship has 3 underlying principles:

1. It is inclusive and contributes to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of all pupils
2. It is invitational and respects the dignity of all participants
3. It is inspiring and combines a range of experiences alongside

It is invitational

Acts of collective worship will:

- ❖ nurture and maintain the dignity of the image of God in everyone through working for social justice
- ❖ encourage pupils to consider the needs of others through charitable service and courageous advocacy;
- ❖ nurture reflection, stillness, meditation and prayer;
- ❖ provide pupils with (age appropriate) opportunities to explore the spiritual dimension of their lives through music, images and words.
- ❖ provide a sense of occasion that is separate from the rest of the school day;
- ❖ foster an appreciation of the natural world and our shared responsibilities for maintaining it;
- ❖ develop clear partnerships between worship in the school and the wider community.

It is inclusive

Our understanding of Christianity is that it is an inclusive faith which mirrors the attitude of Christ in the Gospels. Thus, we welcome children and staff of all faiths to our worship. Through their Christian character our acts of collective worship will:

- ❖ recognise and celebrate the diversity of cultures, life styles and faiths which exist in our school and local community;
- ❖ have an atmosphere in which everyone feels valued and safe;
- ❖ be appropriate for every student to attend
- ❖ focus on issues and experiences which are relevant to the pupils;
- ❖ foster active roles of pupils, parents and members of the local community – in preparation, participation and leadership.

It is inspiring

Our acts of collective worship provide wider opportunities to:

- ❖ promote wide ownership of our Christian vision;
- ❖ assist learners to have increased awareness and to reflect upon fundamental issues about life;
- ❖ enhance, complement and extend curricular work;
- ❖ develop learners' understanding of the Christian faith and Church (Anglican) practice through appropriate Biblical and liturgical content;
- ❖ encounter and explore Jesus' teachings and the trinitarian nature of Christian faith
- ❖ identify opportunities for Christian celebration which can be associated with other school events;
- ❖ Include appropriate references to and elements of other faiths and secular worldviews
- ❖ include opportunities to celebrate the academic, social, personal and wider achievements of pupils.
- ❖ A range of people are involved in leading worship, including learners;
- ❖ Timetabling of acts of worship, includes the use of the local church and various groupings of pupils;
- ❖ Worship is planned in relationship to our distinctive Christian vision and our associated values;
- ❖ Worship is regularly evaluated by a range of members of the school community
- ❖ Opportunities for worship/prayer throughout the day;

Inclusion and Equal Opportunities

We are committed to equality of opportunity regardless of race, gender, cultural background, ability or any physical or sensory disability. We therefore aim to make Collective Worship accessible to all and accommodate ourselves to individual needs when appropriate. As when teachers prepare lessons, worship leaders take account of different learning styles and aim to present materials using multi-sensory approaches.

Organisation of Collective Worship

Our Collective Worship is guided by themes designed by the Collective Worship lead, consulting with the Collective Worship Council. A Yearly Collective Worship overview is written and the themes are followed throughout the year. Each weekly theme is reflective of key events and linked to Bible passages which help work towards our vision.

Collective Worship is planned using Bible links that connect directly with the week's theme. These are carefully planned out when the overview is created in order to cover both the Old and New Testament and also link in with events in the church's calendar.

	Market Rasen	Nettleton
Monday	Intro to theme and Bible links	Intro to theme and Bible links
Tuesday	Choral Collective Worship	Choral Collective Worship
Wednesday	Pre-recorded in Class CW led by classes across federation	Pre-recorded in Class CW led by classes across federation
Thursday	Class Collective Worship using Picture News	Class Collective Worship using Picture News
Friday	Reflection and Celebration	Reflection and Celebration

In addition to this, the Federation values its close links with the local churches and leads and attends services within them. Where a whole school Collective Worship does not happen for any reason, staff will know they are to undertake a class Collective Worship at some point within that school day.

Collective Worship Council

The Collective Worship Council meet regularly at Market Rasen to review, evaluate and plan Collective Worship in order to ensure that it remains exciting, engaging and relevant. Pupils are represented from Year Groups Three - Six.

Monitoring, Evaluation and Review

Regular evaluation of Collective Worship is planned in to the evaluation schedule for both SLT and governors. Children in the Collective Worship council are also regularly invited to evaluate Collective Worship and wider pupil voice is gathered through pupil interviews.

The Federation will review this policy every three years and assess its implementation and effectiveness. The policy will be promoted and implemented throughout the school.