

Collective Worship

1. Introduction

1.1 Collective Worship in our school is in accordance with statutory requirements and has taken account of guidance offered by the Local Authority and Diocese

1.2 Collective Worship makes a significant contribution to the ethos of the school and the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils.

1.3 Parents/Carers have the right to withdraw their children from Collective Worship and should contact school if they wish to do so.

2. What is Collective Worship?

2.1 Collective Worship provides unique opportunities to enrich the Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development of every member of the school. Collective Worship builds relationships and a sense of community, making an invaluable contribution to pupils Spiritual, Social, Moral and Cultural learning.

2.2 Collective Worship gives pupils the gift of space to reflect and respond to life's big questions about God, life, relationships, the environment, behaviour, attitudes and choices in the midst of a busy day. Celebrating all aspects of school life, pupils can relax and know that they are valued as individuals, share their experiences and interact with one another. This should ensure that every child feels secure in the knowledge that they really do matter, are completely included and equal to everyone around them.

2.3 Collective Worship reflects something special or separate from ordinary school activities. It is an opportunity for those with faith commitment to worship appropriately, whilst those who are uncommitted can experience the threshold of worship. Collective Worship contributes to many areas of the curriculum, notably RE, Citizenship and PSHE.

2.4 Collective Worship and assemblies are not the same. The school meets together for Collective Worship but there will be times when they assemble together for other purposes e.g. fire drill, notices, performances etc.

3. The role and importance of Collective Worship in our school

3.1 Due to the cultural diversity of the population of Newfield School, we hold a 'Determination' from BwD SACRE which allows us to hold Collective Worship which has a focus on the 4 areas of spiritual development, rather than content being of a wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character which we consider to be more appropriate and enriching for our school family. These 4 areas of spiritual development enable all students to develop relationships with themselves, others, the environment and God, whatever that means to them.

4. Aims and Objectives of Collective Worship

- Contribute to the spiritual, social, moral and cultural development of each child.
- To foster feelings such as awe, wonder, thankfulness, mystery and joy.
- Support the social and emotional aspects of pupils learning.
- Promote community cohesion.
- Give expression to, and reaffirm and practise the values of the school community.
- To give memorable and enjoyable experiences.
- To respond to the aesthetic – music, poetry, art, literature.
- Allow reflection and response to the fundamental questions of life and those things that are of eternal concern and value to human beings.
- Celebrate and give thanks for the achievements within the school, local and international community and occasions of significance, including festivals.
- Foster and enable a concern for the needs of others, a recognition of the vulnerability of self and of others.
- To explore a sense of the sacred.
- To enable pupils to encounter the vocabulary of prayer and worship.
- Provide members of the school community with the opportunity for personal reflection and to praise and reach out to God, whatever that means to the individual.
- Provide members of the school community with the opportunity to experience stillness and quiet.
- Provide members of the school community with the opportunity to experience a variety of forms of prayer and meditation. These might include praise, seeking forgiveness, asking on behalf of self and others or quiet reflection.
- To help students to begin to understand the nature and purpose of worship.
- Provide a foundation for a mature understanding and practice of worship in the future.

5. Organisation, planning, monitoring and delivery of Collective Worship

5.1 The Collective Worship Coordinator for Newfield School is Greg Sharples

5.2 Collective Worship is held in class daily. There is available a copy of the school's grace in English and Urdu and this can be played in class before going up to the hall for lunch.

5.3 There is a Collective Worship theme calendar which gives a different theme for each week and identifies any key religious or cultural events taking place each week.

5.4 Staff training takes place to enhance the delivery of Collective Worship.

5.5 In order to ensure that all pupils of all ages and abilities feel included in the time of Collective Worship it has a strong emphasis on engaging the senses. We do this by using displays with which the students can interact, using lighting to create atmosphere, offering different scents and tastes, using music & singing to celebrate and share with others and by using many tactile resources to bring the themes to life.

5.6 Students have a role to play in Collective Worship as leaders and participants and contribute to worship through poems, prayers, dramas, songs, images.

5.7 Students are encouraged to reflect upon values, choices, behaviour, emotions and relationships through a wide variety of themes, stories, drama, music and multi-media drawn from all faiths and world cultures, highlighting the common ground between all people, particularly Christian and Muslim.

5.8 A range of visitors are invited to contribute to Collective Worship at various times throughout the year.

5.9 Parents, Friends and Governors are invited to attend school to participate in Collective Worship at special times during the year by letter.

6. Communication and Review of Newfield School Collective Worship Policy

6.1 We will take active steps to communicate this Collective Worship Policy to all students, parents, staff, governors, partners, stakeholders, and visitors to the School.

6.2 The Policy has been approved and adopted by the governing body of Newfield School.

6.3 The Collective Worship Coordinator will update the theme calendar and review the policy annually.

7. Equality Duty

Newfield School complies with the general and specific duties of the Equality Act (2010). In accordance with the duty we publish information that demonstrates that we have due regard to the need to;

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination
- Advance equality of opportunity
- Foster good relations

These specific duties have been considered in relation to all our policies and procedures in school. Our objectives will be reported on and published as part of the Governance public documents available for inspection under the Freedom of Information Regulations and Data Protection duties and in the school newsletter to parents.

8. Safeguarding

Newfield School is committed to safeguarding and protecting the welfare of children and vulnerable adults as its number one priority

Full copies of Policies and Procedures related to all aspects of Safeguarding, and the Complaints Policy, are available on request from Geoff Fitzpatrick, Head Teacher and Designated Senior Person for Safeguarding and Child Protection.

Bibliography

'Guidelines, ideas and resources for collective worship' DVD Blackburn with Darwen SACRE with Blackburn Diocesan Board of Education