

North Nibley Church of England Primary School

Policy for Collective Worship – DRAFT

Date of policy: November 2018

Policy developed by: Pupils, Staff, Parents and Governors

Review date: November 2022

North Nibley Church of England Primary School

North Nibley Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School, formerly the William Purnell Endowed School, was founded in the Eighteenth Century to provide education for the children of North Nibley and the surrounding villages.

Our Vision is to inspire and celebrate learning, achievement, faith and fun.

Ours is a school that works in partnership with the community to enable and equip each child to live life to the full (The Bible, John 10:10), reflecting the Christian values of our foundation.

We will realise our Vision by:

- demonstrating, as a Church school, our Christian values in action
- providing a happy, healthy and secure environment where all are respected, valued and encouraged to contribute
- encouraging participation and a love of learning by offering experiences full of opportunity and creativity
- pursuing excellence in every aspect of school life, supporting one another and celebrating the achievements of all

How does this policy support the implementation of this vision?

In this school our vision and associated values are brought to the fore and made explicit.

Pupils, staff and visitors are invited to participate in this 'happy and safe space' and through the various measures detailed below, share their views. All contributions are valued. Worship is creative, with props, plays and puppet show (for example) supplementing a traditional 'talk' approach. The 'celebration' worship in particular allows for the appreciation of all our members as is, in fact, a celebration of school life in all its guises.

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Rationale

As North Nibley is a voluntary aided school, the Governing body, after consultation with the Head teacher, have made the following arrangements for Christian worship. The Trust Deed, School Vision, and aims inform the policy and practice of collective worship in North Nibley Church of England Primary School. The constitution of the school's governing body requires a majority of governors to be appointed by the diocese of Gloucester, in consultation with the North Nibley Parochial Church Council.

School worship is an affirmation and celebration of the Christian foundation, values and ethos of the school. Worship is central to the life and purposes of our school and reflects the Christian understanding of God as Trinity. This will include belief in God the source of all being and life, belief in Jesus who reveals God's love by his incarnation death and resurrection, and belief in the Holy Spirit who makes the presence of Jesus known in the world.

Aims

Through collective worship in our school we aim to:

- provide an experience of worship that will allow children to respond to the presence, power and peace of God
- introduce children to Christian teaching, vocabulary, symbolism and the cycle of the church year
- help children to develop a concern for others within the school and wider world
- help children to develop an appreciation of the created world and an awareness of our responsibility for it.
- explore a variety of ways of praying and introduce children to some well known Christian prayers, e.g. The Lord's Prayer, some well-known graces and our school prayer (written in 2016).
- strengthen and support the school community, giving expression to and reaffirming the Christian values of the school
- celebrate qualities that each child brings to the school community, recognising the uniqueness of each individual made in the image of God
- encourage children to reflect on the puzzling questions that life poses and to respond to the wonder and mystery of the world around them.

The Legal Framework

There must be a daily act of collective worship for all pupils that takes account of their age and aptitude. (Education Reform Act 1988).

Parents have the right to withdraw children from collective worship and suitable arrangements will be made to accommodate any children whose parents make this request. Since this is a church school, however, worship is central to its life and work and is regarded as a very important part of children's entitlement and education.

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Organisation

At our school:

- Acts of worship will consist of a welcome and times of learning, reflection and response.
- Worship is held for the whole school on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, and lasts for 20 - 25 minutes. It is held at different times on different days, according to the whole-school timetable.
 - On Mondays we have a “Songs of Praise” worship session.
 - On Tuesdays Collective Worship is held for the whole school and the focus is the school’s current Value, or an aspect of the Vision, as determined by the Collective Worship Plan.
 - On Wednesdays Collective Worship is held in class groups. In Class 4 this may be supported through a ‘Philosophy For Children (P4C)’ approach.
 - On Thursdays some Year 6 pupils work as a team to plan and run a series of assemblies. All Year 6 are encouraged to take up the role of ‘Worship Leader’ in their final year. The book ‘Roots and Fruits’ provides excellent material for them to adapt.
 - Friday Worship is an ‘open’ worship time when the community, including parents, friends, governors and secondary-aged ex-pupils are welcome to attend. There is an ‘Open The Book’ presentation delivered by members and supporters of St. Martin’s Church. This usually includes children as actors or readers as appropriate. There is a prayer, a song and time for reflection, as well as the celebration of birthdays. Pupil achievement is rewarded with certificates.
- Many of the staff lead times of worship on different occasions in the school week.
- Upon entry to the school, Reception (and others as required) are invited to contribute a stone to the collection plate, symbolising their joining with us, and a moment of recognition is held in the context of an assembly.
- Special services for Harvest, Christmas and Y6 Leaver’s takes place in St. Martin’s church, in collaboration with local clergy. These are supplemented by ‘Experience Days’ (on a rolling programme) and occasionally Lent, Easter and Pentecost being celebrated there too. When Armistice Day falls on a weekend, families are invited to join the congregation at the War Memorial. Otherwise this is commemorated on 11th November and ‘The Silence’ is held at school.
- Worship resources in the form of books, artefacts and visual aids are held centrally in school either in the Hall, the Head’s office or on the computer-network server.
- Collective Worship is planned by the worship co-ordinator using a 3-year cycle of themes that takes account of the festivals of the church year and other national/international days of significance. From 2013, following community consultation, 9 key values were chosen from the “Values for Life” programme developed by the Diocese of Gloucester, to explore some of the important Christian values in a whole school setting. These have a particular resonance for North Nibley C of E Primary.
- Worship uses the Bible as a source book of inspiration and learning, though we recognise the Church of England’s commitment to ecumenism and dialogue with other faiths. Stories, teachings and festivals from other religions are taught in Religious Education lessons.
- In worship a range of approaches is used to ensure that all children can be involved and children are encouraged to contribute to worship by responding to ideas and themes. Reflection time, think-pair-share and ‘Lollipop sticks’ (for random selection of participants) are used regularly.
- Visitors, including local clergy, are welcomed into the school to lead worship.
- A Grace is said in the classrooms before lunch and/ or a prayer is said before children go home.

Evaluating and monitoring

Pupils monitor acts of Collective Worship, noting any personal impact or challenging questions. They need to be trained in this! Issues raised are discussed in class and evaluated by teacher observation. From time-to-time the staff, parents and other visitors to worship will be asked to provide either verbal or written feedback. These evaluations should be recorded and kept as evidence for any forthcoming SIAMS inspection.