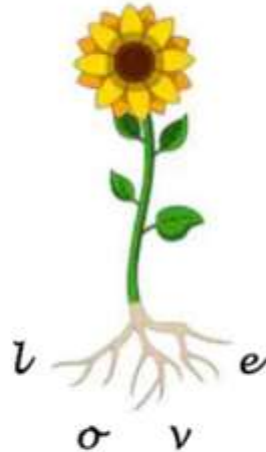


# North Stainley Voluntary Controlled Church of England Primary School

*We are our school, we have our roots and foundation in  
love*



*Our school is us, we will grow, blossom and flourish.*

## Collective Worship Policy

**Policy agreed: 24.3.2021**

**Headteacher:** *LE Wallen*

**Louise Wallen**

**Chair of Governors:** *Nathaniel Potts*

**Nathaniel Potts**

**Policy to be reviewed:**

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As a church school we value each individual and seek to be a place where all are welcomed and treated with dignity and respect.

Our school vision speaks of us having our roots and foundation in love. Love is the rich soil in which all our Christian values take root. Living out these values will enable us all to grow, blossom and flourish and become confident, successful and responsible citizens of our amazing world.

Our school vision of having our roots and foundation in love comes from St Paul's letter to the Ephesians. St Paul says "I pray that Christ will make his home in your hearts through faith. I pray that **you may have your roots and foundation in love**, so that you ... may come to know his love — although it can never be fully known — and so be completely filled with the very nature of God. (Ephesians 3: 17-19)

Love is the rich soil in which all our Christian values take root.

**Friendship  
Empathy**

**Respect  
Independence**

**Resilience  
Aspiration**

Living out these values will enable us all to grow, blossom and flourish and become caring, confident, successful and responsible citizens of our amazing world.

*All children and young people are entitled to an education that enables them to make progress so that they achieve their best, become confident individuals living fulfilling lives, and make a successful transition into adulthood, whether into employment, further or higher education or training (6.1 Code of Practice)*

# Collective Worship Policy

## Introduction

Our collective worship policy strengthens and supports the Christian identity of our school and reaffirms our vision:

*We are our school, we have our roots and foundation in love. Our school is us, we will grow, blossom and flourish.*

Our worship also reinforces our agreed associated Christian values of Friendship, Respect, Resilience, Empathy, Independence and Aspiration.

Collective Worship celebrates the central role that each child has to play in their community. Our worship reflects the variety of traditions found in the Church of England, and will recognise and follow the Christian liturgical year. The daily Christian act of worship is central to our ethos and is supported by all staff and governors. It makes an important contribution to the overall spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of the whole school community.

## What is Collective Worship?

Legislation requires schools, including Voluntary Aided and Voluntary Controlled schools, to conduct daily acts of Collective Worship. However, the legislation does not define what is meant by the term 'Collective Worship'.

*"... Worship in schools will necessarily be of a different character from worship amongst a group with beliefs in common. The legislation reflects this difference in referring to 'collective worship' rather than 'corporate worship'.  
(DfE Circular 1/94 para 57)*

**Corporate worship** assumes a shared set of beliefs and values, i.e. a worshipping congregation meeting on a Sunday, where the worship is confessional and evangelistic (to spread the Christian gospel by public preaching or personal witness).

**Collective worship**, in recognising the collectivity of all participants, can make no such assumption that all have the same beliefs and values.

Collective Worship should be:

*"Appropriate to the family backgrounds of the pupils and their ages and aptitudes."* (DfE Circular 1/94 p.22)

Collective Worship gives pupils and school staff the opportunity to:

- Engage in an act of community
- Express praise and thanksgiving to God
- Be still and reflect
- Explore the big questions of life and respond to national events
- Foster respect and deepen spiritual awareness
- Reflect on the character of God and on the teachings of Christ through Biblical texts
- Affirm Christian values and attitudes
- Share each other's joys and challenges
- Celebrate special times in the Christian calendar

In line with the requirements of the requirements of the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) schedule, we aim to ensure that collective worship

- a) Offers the opportunity, without compulsion, to all pupils and adults to grow spiritually through experiences of prayer, stillness, worship and reflection.
- b) Enables all pupils and adults to appreciate that Christians worship in different ways, for example using music, silence, story, prayer, reflection, the varied liturgical and other traditions of Anglican/Methodist worship, festivals and, where appropriate, the Eucharist.

- c) Helps pupils and adults to appreciate the relevance of faith in today's world, to encounter the teachings of Jesus and the Bible and to develop their understanding of the Christian belief in the Trinitarian nature of God and its language.
- d) Enables pupils as well as adults to engage in the planning, leading and evaluation of collective worship in ways that lead to improving practice. Leaders of worship, including clergy, have access to regular training.
- e) Encourages local church community partnerships to support the school effectively in developing its provision for collective worship.

## The Anglican Christian Tradition

The following are shared as Christian elements of collective worship:

- Exploring the Christian understanding of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit
- Using the Bible for inspiration, stories and guidance
- Observing the cycle of the Church's Year – Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, Pentecost and Saints Days amongst ordinary days
- Learning and saying prayers from a number of sources, in particular the Lord's Prayer and the blessings in common use
- Singing a wide variety of hymns and songs from traditional to modern
- Experiencing Christian symbols in worship and reflecting on their meaning
- The use of prayer, silence and reflection
- *Using Anglican sentences and responses at the beginning and end of worship*
- *Using Collects as a focus for worship*

## Planning Worship (see Appendix 1)

Collective worship is planned by a variety of stakeholders including staff, pupils, the incumbent and curate of our local church and external visitors in consultation with the collective worship leader. This act of worship can take place at any time of the school day and in any regular school grouping e.g. whole school, key stage or class. Our school plans worship systematically and cohesively using *a range of resources*. Resources are adapted and changed to meet the needs of our community. This ensures that there is a shared understanding of the long and short term planning of worship and this enables continuity. Visitors to our school are asked to read and comply with this policy as well as our school visitor and safeguarding policies: (*All visitor and volunteer related documents to be found in our Visitor Folder in the office*). This should include discussing the content of any worship with the collective worship leader in order to ascertain its suitability for the school community. Visitors are never left alone with children as the supervision of pupils remains the responsibility of school staff.

The Head teacher and clergy of the parish meet yearly to complete a long term plan of Collective Worship, they then meet informally to review and update this. The Year 6 Worship Ambassadors and Headteacher meet half-terminally to plan an overview of worship.

The group are mindful of the variation in personal spiritual styles and provide a range of creative opportunities including music, silence, symbolism, drama, use of IT.

## Expectations of pupils

Expectations of pupil behaviour are commensurate with our whole school behaviour policy. North Stainley "Customs for Collective Worship" will be reviewed yearly.

Pupils regularly plan and lead worship on a voluntary basis. School Worship Ambassadors are a group of Year 6 pupils who work with the collective worship leader once a week at lunchtime to develop their own understanding of worship and to design worship to support the spiritual development of their peers.

## Developing Worship

The school allows for part of its budget to support collective worship. Governors recognise the need for professional development of staff in the review and delivery of collective worship and ensure training is offered on both an

individual and whole staff basis. The collective worship leader attends regular professional development with the Diocese of Leeds and accesses the support of the named adviser through the Enhanced Service Plan to ensure that worship is inclusive, invitational and inspirational.

### Monitoring and Evaluation

Our school regularly evaluates the breadth of acts of collective worship and the impact it has on the school and its wider community. This involves monitoring by school leaders, staff, pupils and governors in order for worship to grow and develop. We also welcome the contributions of parents and pupils through Parent and Pupil Voice which are reviewed and considered on a regular basis. These are shared with our Foundation Governors' Monitoring Group, Worship Ambassadors and other worship leaders and play an integral part in developing the spiritual growth of the school. Worship is independently inspected by law under Section 48 of the Education Act 2005.

### The legal requirements of collective worship in Voluntary Aided and Voluntary Controlled schools.

- Be conducted in accordance with the provision of the Trust Deeds of the school and Instrument of Government and should be consistent with the beliefs and practices of the Church of England
- The Governing Body should ensure that all pupils **each day** engage meaningfully in a real act of Christian worship which is in accordance with the faith and practice of the Church
- Arrangements for collective worship, in foundation schools of a religious character, are the responsibility of the Governing Body, after consulting with the Headteacher (*DfE Circular 1/94 para 52 & 53*)
- All acts of worship in Church schools must be Christian in character (based on Biblical teachings)
- All registered pupils (apart from those whose parents exercise the right to withdraw) must on 'each school day take part in an act of collective worship'

### Parental Withdrawal

Worship is regarded as special time which wholly reflects our ethos as a church school. It is an inclusive opportunity for those of all faiths and none. We respect the right of parents to withdraw their child/children from acts of collective worship. However, as collective worship is central to our ethos, we would appreciate the opportunity to discuss this decision with parents.

## Appendix I: The Rhythm of Worship at North Stainley

The following pattern is followed, providing a daily rhythm to our worship

<b>Gathering</b>	<p>We aim to ensure children 'cross a threshold' into worship. In school we gather in worship to the sound of music. The music plays before the children arrive as a 'call' to worship. A simple liturgy is used at all Collective Worship (in school or and in Church). 3 children each put an object on the table or altar and say the words below and children and adults respond.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We take out the Bible and put it on the table as we think about – all respond <b>"God the Father. Father we are here, we are here for you"</b></li> <li>• We take out the cross and put it in the centre as we think about – all respond <b>"God the Son. Jesus we are here, we are here for you"</b></li> <li>• We take out the candles and we light them as we think about – all respond <b>"God the Holy Spirit. Spirit we are here, we are here for you"</b>.</li> </ul> <p>Whoever leads worship begins with a greeting such as: 'Welcome to our worship, peace be with you' children and adults respond with <b>'and also with you'</b>.</p>
<b>Engaging</b>	<p>We aim to stimulate the interest of children through a range of storytelling, drama, activities, poetry, videos, powerpoint slides etc around a single simple focus.</p>

<b>Actively responding</b>	In every worship session, children and adults will have an opportunity to respond to the focus of the worship. This may simply be through prayer and reflection but we try to provide for the range of pupils we have.
<b>Sending</b>	Worship always ends with the 3 children blowing the candles out and removing the objects from the table saying “Father as we leave, Jesus as we leave, Spirit as we leave”. The adults and children join in the response “ <b>Bless us all as we leave</b> ”. Children leave to sound of music and return to their classes.

The following ongoing weekly pattern is generally followed:

<b>Monday</b>	<b>1.00pm</b>	Collective worship in St Mary’s Church usually led by a member of the clergy team.
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>1.00pm</b>	Head teacher and Worship Ambassadors lead whole school Worship (via Microsoft teams during lockdown) to introduce the theme of the week
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>11.30am</b>	On a weekly rota, each class leads Bible based Worship for the whole school (via Microsoft teams during lockdown)
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>1.00 pm</b>	Headteacher and Worship Ambassadors developing the weekly theme
<b>Friday</b>	<b>1.00pm</b>	Celebration Worship – parents invited to join us and share lunch at least once per half term. A time of thanksgiving a celebration to recognise how we flourish in our school and in the service of God. (via Microsoft teams during lockdown).

Our long term cycle of worship provides a rhythm to the year.

	<b>Year A</b>	<b>Year B</b>	<b>Year C (provisional)</b>
<b>Autumn 1</b>	<i>School Christian values Friendship, Respect and Resilience (in thoughts and actions).</i>	<i>The Holy Trinity</i>	<i>New beginnings</i>
	<b>Harvest</b>	<b>Harvest</b>	<b>Harvest</b>
<b>Autumn 2</b>	<i>School Christian values Empathy, Aspiration, Independence (in thought and actions).</i>	<i>The Power of Prayer</i>	<i>1 Corinthians 12:12-27 ‘We are one’</i>
	<b>Advent and Christmas</b>	<b>Advent and Christmas</b>	<b>Advent and Christmas</b>
<b>Spring 1</b>	<i>School Vision St Paul’s letter to the Ephesians (Ephesians 3: 17-19)</i>	<i>Giants of Faith</i>	<i>Epiphany What we believe/ Our School Values</i>
<b>Spring 2</b>	<i>The life of Jesus</i>	<i>Saints Days Wellbeing</i>	<i>What is God like?</i>
	<b>Lent and Easter</b>	<b>Lent and Easter</b>	<b>Lent and Easter</b>
<b>Summer 1</b>	<i>Forgiveness</i>	<i>Liturgical Calendar Celebrating Faith</i>	<i>In the beginning.... Genesis</i>
	<b>Pentecost</b>	<b>Pentecost</b>	<b>Pentecost</b>
<b>Summer 2</b>	<i>Hope and Wellbeing</i>	<i>Thankfulness</i>	<i>Our world; ‘a gift from God.’</i>

Seasonal Special services are held in Church, e.g. Harvest, Remembrance, Nativity/Carol Service, Easter and Leavers. Parents and members of the community are also invited to these services.