



NEWPORT
COMMUNITY
SCHOOL
PRIMARY
ACADEMY

Collective Worship Policy

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Author/owner:	School Community Board
Anticipated Review:	Autumn 2024

General Statement

Under the remit of the Education Reform Act 1988 schools must provide a daily act of worship for all pupils. The Act requires it to be '**wholly or mainly Christian**' and '**not distinctive of any denomination**' (3)

The DfES Circular 1/94 gives the current advice of the Department on collective worship. It clearly sets out the aims of collective worship in the mind of the government. (Please see appendix 1. Sacre Guidance)

At Newport Community School Primary Academy, we understand the meaning of 7.2 of the Act which states that Collective Worship should '**reflect the broad traditions of Christian belief**' to mean the underlying principles that Christian belief encompasses. These are ideals common to all humanity including love, joy, peace, hope, truth, trust, forgiveness, service, compassion, justice, respect of individuals, respect for life and personal and social responsibility.

We aim to provide acts of worship so that all members of the school community will feel able to attend under the Education Act 1988. Teachers and staff employed by the school have the **right to withdraw** from observing acts of collective worship and parents have the right to withdraw their children from collective worship. Parents should inform the school in writing of their intention to withdraw from collective worship.

Pupils who are withdrawn from collective worship should participate in purposeful learning activities which support the Academy's curriculum.

Definitions

The word **Worship** has at least two distinct meanings.

- a) Adoration offered by believers to the Supreme Being
- b) Concerns, concepts, principles and conduct worthy of celebration as examples of the highest achievements of the human spirit.

We should provide opportunities for both.

Collective Worship in schools is not like corporate worship in churches, which is the activity of a faith community. We conduct worship in an educational context and it is therefore not appropriate to evangelise. The term assembly refers to an act of collective worship and is the term used by the children and staff.

Aims

Through the daily act of collective worship, we aim to:

- Sensitively evoke those feelings from which it might be said that worship most naturally arises for example. a sense of beauty, awe and wonder, a feeling of pride, shared sadness, a sense of peace or spirituality, a sense of thankfulness and a sense of stillness in the midst

of a busy existence.

- Provide opportunities for the whole school community to celebrate, building up a sense of group identity and making visible the school's leadership team.
- Develop a sense of responsibility for ourselves and inner awareness as inter-relating members of a local, national and global community that affect each other and the natural world.
- Encompass the wide aspects of school life including all curriculum areas and also reflecting the school's ethos.
- Explore together the human condition and encourage the development of compassion and charity, difference and understanding.
- Provide a meeting time to explore the themes described in our assembly cycle

Planning for Collective Worship

Format

Collective Worship should allow for spontaneity, so that the provider's natural enthusiasm or interpretation of the given subject on the **rolling programme** (see appendix 2) should be taken into account. This allows for news items local, world or indeed individual, to be given appropriate time and consideration.

We endeavour to keep this to a 20-minute session but feel that it is more important to maintain a sense of spirituality rather than be pressured by time. Achievement assembly will last for approximately 25 minutes.

The Rolling Programme

The rolling programme provides a framework for our collective worship to help to avoid repetition and provide a range of ideas. We have developed a programme based on a variety of themes to dovetail with the work in PSHE and support the SMSC (Social, Moral and Spiritual provision)

The following activities take place weekly:

- **Whole school assembly**
- **Key Stage Values Assembly**
- **Singing assembly**
- **Celebration and News Assembly**

Whole School Assembly

To be led by the Head Teacher or other leader/teacher or invited visitor, following the theme suggested by the rolling programme. Spontaneous assemblies which reflect current school community events or national/international current affairs may be led without reference to the rolling programme.

Key Stage Values Assembly

The Values Assembly is an opportunity to reflect on how individuals across the Key Stage have demonstrated the school values. Each child will be presented with a certificate to explain why they have been nominated. Values assemblies take place in Key Stages and are led by the Key Stage Leader. It is expected that all children will be nominated for a values certificate at least once in each academic year and class teachers will keep a record of this. The values assembly is also an opportunity to share any individual achievements from outside of school.

Celebration and News Assembly

The celebration and news assembly is an opportunity to reflect on the work and achievements of the whole school community. For instance: outstanding work, achievements of sports teams, learning from educational visits, work of the School Council or Eco Council. Leaders may also include significant cultural or world events.

Notices, messages etc should come only at the end or beginning of the Collective Worship and there should be a distinct break between assembly and other messages.

If a member of staff is leading a theme which may be considered as contentious or provoke a possible reaction they must discuss the assembly with the Head Teacher and ensure that at least one other member of staff is present.

Staff may move away from the expected theme in response to school, local, national or international events.

Thought for the Day

A thought for the day, lasting approximately 5 minutes will be led by class teachers once weekly. The format for this should vary to retain interest, but should include a period of reflection.

Visiting Faith Leaders/Visitors

Visitors who wish to take assembly should be approved by the Head Teacher to ensure that messages in a child centered environment are appropriate. There is a duty to safeguard children and ensure visitors are adequately supported. Where possible a range of faith leaders should be invited, but it is important that guidance is given by the Head Teacher to the content of collective worship.

Prayer

As part of our ethos to encourage children to make decisions for themselves and to support an inclusive approach to collective worship, prayer is led by a teacher or where relevant children. Prayer should promote stillness and reflection.

A candle may be lit during prayer or children may pray with hands together and eyes closed. Children who do not wish to pray may sit silently and show respect to others. If they wish to own the prayer they can use a closing word such as 'Amen'.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Collective Worship content is set by the Head Teacher and Curriculum Leader. The quality of collective worship is the subject of discussions between the School Community Board and the Head Teacher.

The Headteacher will devise a more detailed breakdown at the start of each term.

Staff may move away from the theme in response to school, local, national or international events.

Suggested Assembly Themes

Autumn	Spring	Summer
Jigsaw themes 1 & 2 -Being Me in My World -Celebrating Difference	Jigsaw themes 3 & 4 - -	Jigsaw themes 5 & 6 - -
School Values	Setting goals	Transition/Moving on
Anti-bullying-Odd Socks Day	Chinese New Year	
Online safety	Easter	
Harvest		
Remembrance		
Diwali		
Advent		
Christmas		