

*Individual Growth, Individual People'*

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# Collective Worship Policy

## Reviewed May 2021

# NEWARK ORCHARD SCHOOL - COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

## Philosophy

Collective worship will both reinforce and contribute to the ethos of the school, in addition to offering a unique occasion in the school day to pause and explore life beyond the prescribed curriculum.

By enabling pupils to acknowledge the value of diversity in terms of race, gender, culture and differing abilities, it fosters inclusion and breeds tolerance.

Furthermore, whilst allowing those with religious commitment to enter into worship, those who have no such commitment are offered an opportunity to sense what worship can mean.

## Values and Aims

We believe at Newark Orchard School that collective worship both supports and strengthens what we aim to do in every aspect of school life. Our caring ethos and the value which we place on the development of the whole child; spiritually, morally, socially, culturally and intellectually, is reflected in our worship. We value this special time in the school day for the space it gives children to develop a reflective approach to life and the ability to express their reflections in an appropriate manner.

Through our collective worship we aim to provide a caring and supporting environment for children to:

- Become increasingly aware of themselves as individuals and groups within the school and wider community.
- Grow in understanding of the feelings of other people in everyday situations and beliefs.
- Explore the language which people use to express their feelings.
- Deepen their sense of wonder about the world around them.
- Respond freely to religious and/or spiritual stimulus.
- Acknowledge diversity and affirm each person's life stance, whether it be religious or not.

Worship both reflects and nurtures the ethos of the whole school. It encompasses all aspects of school life and all areas of the curriculum so that every member of staff and every pupil may feel involved. In particular school worship here develops the feeling of belonging to a community which is essential for personal development and spiritual growth.

## The difference between an assembly and collective worship

Assemblies can incorporate collective worship, but there is a distinction between the two. A report on sporting achievements may come under 'assembly' but using the pupils' sporting achievements to explore and reflect on human potential, determination, loyalty, courage could be the stimulus for a 'worshipful response' and therefore could constitute collective worship. It is helpful to establish some ritual for marking out collective worship from assembly - perhaps by involving pupils in lighting a candle or playing music.

## Legal requirements

### Daily

All community, foundation or voluntary schools, are required by law to provide a daily act of collective worship. Special schools should secure daily collective worship as far as is practicable.

## **Wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character**

All pupils should take part in an act of worship which is 'wholly, or mainly of a broadly Christian character' in some appropriate grouping at some point in the day - unless they have been withdrawn by their parents.

## **Withdrawals**

In accordance with legal requirements, parents have the right to withdraw their children from acts of collective worship on religious grounds. Parents should make their wishes known to the Head teacher who will ensure that any pupils who are withdrawn are appropriately supervised while the act of collective worship takes place. Pupils can be withdrawn wholly or partly from acts of collective worship only by parents. Schools should not use this time to withdraw pupils for other activities.

## **Each act of worship should have:**

- A space in the school building which is conducive to a worshipful atmosphere
- A clear focus on important issues or concepts
- Materials and approaches which connect with the pupils (heart and mind)
- Space for reflection - giving time to think about the issues raised and enabling those who want to, to pray.
- A feeling that this time is somehow special, out of the ordinary.

## **Newark Orchard Values**

The focus for collective worship should be broadly based on the collective school values. Pupils should be encouraged to reflect and given time to think about the meaning of each value, the importance in their lives and that of their local and wider community.

The list of values is included in Appendix 1

In addition, students will be given the opportunity to reflect on and experience festivals and celebrations from world religions and cultures, as they occur throughout the year including:

- Chinese New Year
- Easter
- Eid
- Baisakhi
- Passover
- Rosh Hashanah
- Yam Kippur
- Succoth
- Harvest Festival
- Diwali
- Guru Nanak's birthday
- Hanukkah
- Advent
- Christmas

## **Methods for collective worship**

The following is not an exhaustive list of possible strategies & resources. As in a lesson, a particular strategy or resource should only be used if it actually enables pupils to reach the intended outcome.

- Artefacts
- Bible / Sacred Text
- Buzz Groups / Pairs
- Current News
- Discussion Groups / Pairs
- Gifts and Talents
- Everyday Objects
- Guided Imagery
- Drama
- Music
- Poetry
- Prayer
- Puppets
- Reflection Diaries
- Story
- Scenarios
- Toys
- Visitors
- Music
- Clips

### **SUCCESS CRITERIA**

At this school we evaluate our acts of worship against some of the following:

- Involvement, enjoyment, attention, reaction of pupils
- The growth of respect and tolerance within the school community
- Positive response to shared experience
- An atmosphere which matches the theme
- A contribution to individual and community sense of well being
- A sense of occasion
- Good order
- Staff affirmation
- A sense of challenge
- A place in the overall plan of the school
- Enrichment of pupil's experience