



# **COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY**

Policy adopted by Full Governing Board  
29<sup>th</sup> June 2021



## **Philosophy**

At Newton Poppleford Primary school we recognise that Collective Worship is an important opportunity to provide opportunities for our students Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development.

## **Aims**

It is our aim at Newton Poppleford Primary School that worship should:

- contribute to the spiritual, social, moral and cultural development of each child.
- Support the Social and Emotional development of our pupils through making use of the SEAL programme.
- give expression to, and reaffirm and practise the values of the school community
- 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
- provide members of the school community with the opportunity to respond to Christian language and symbolism as well as those of other religions
- 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.

## **Legal Status of Collective Worship**

The 1988 Education Reform Act requires that 'all pupils in attendance at a maintained school shall on each day take part in an act of Collective Worship'. We seek to do our best to keep the spirit of this legislation seeking to provide as many high quality acts of worship as is practically possible.

To provide students with variety in their experience of worship, acts of worship may take the form of a whole school act of worship for all pupils or separate acts of worship for students in different age groups or school groups. Collective Worship may be held at any time during the school day.

The responsibility for arranging school worship in our school rests with the head teacher.

All acts of worship are in accordance with the guidance issued in circular 1/94 which states that worship should be of a 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character' and not distinctive of any particular Christian denomination. By broadly Christian in this school we mean that: -

- worship contains some elements that accord special status to Jesus, his teachings and actions.
- sharing with students the Christian belief that all Christians are called to continue Jesus' work of love and compassion for their fellow human beings through the exploration of key Christian concepts such as Love, trust, forgiveness, mercy, humility, courage and integrity, respect for life, value of an individual, justice, co-operation and service, honesty and truthfulness.

In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act, which states that collective worship should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character', we normally base our assemblies on the teachings of Christ and traditions of the Christian Church. However, we conduct our assemblies in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs of all members of the school.

Acts of Collective Worship at Newton Poppleford Primary school take into account the student's ages, aptitudes and family backgrounds.

### **Rights of Withdrawal**

At Newton Poppleford Primary School we seek to be an inclusive community however we respect the right of parents to withdraw their children for Collective Worship. This school expects that withdrawal will only be made following parental discussion with the head teacher/worship co-ordinator followed by written confirmation of withdrawal.

The school has a system of suitable supervision for students withdrawn from Acts of Collective Worship. However, no additional work is set or followed in this time.

All teachers, including the head teacher, have the right of withdrawal from the Act of Collective Worship, but the head teacher, should he or she wish exercise this right, maintains statutory accountability for Acts of Collective Worship in Newton Poppleford Primary school.

### **Organisation**

The arrangements for daily worship will vary; on some days children will meet as a whole school; sometimes the older and younger children will meet separately; and sometimes the children will meet in their classes.

### **Monitoring and Review**

It is the role of the Governing Body to monitor and review the policy and practice of collective worship in the school in liaison with the head teacher.

### **Equal opportunities**

Children's entitlement to Acts of Collective Worship should not be affected by gender, culture, race or special needs. It is important that there are no barriers to this equality of opportunity.