

Newington Community Primary School



Collective Worship Policy

2023-2024

Amended: Term 1 2023

Updated by: Becky Andrews

Approved by the Governing Body:

Signed: (Chair of Governors)

Review: Term 1 2024

Intent

Newington Community Primary School undertakes the daily act of collective worship as it has an important role in school life. Providing every member of the school community with the prospect to reaffirm values, roles in life and provides valuable opportunities to strengthen a sense of community, belonging and inclusiveness. Collective worship allows for a significant contribution to the religious, spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of those present.

The intent is that all content will be continuously updated and reviewed annually, creating a collective worship ethos that is constantly being challenged to ensure that pupils are able to develop their sense of belonging and the beliefs of others in a way that supports them in their understanding of the modern and ever changing world. This will ensure that as a school we are meeting the expectations set by the DfE and giving our pupils the best opportunities to come together within their community.

The four key developmental areas that collective worship aims to develop through consideration and reflection are;

- **Spiritual** – pupils are given the opportunity to reflect on their own beliefs and views; the beliefs and views of others; and take time to be quiet and ‘find space’ for themselves and their thoughts (for those of a faith background this may involve prayer, for others it will not).
- **Moral** – pupils are provided with the chance to consider and reflect on their values and principles as well as those of others, why people behave in certain ways; the difference between right and wrong, good and evil and how they and others decide; how the principles of themselves and others are formed and how these principles inform the judgements and decisions they and others make about how to live.
- **Social** – pupils are able to reflect on how they relate to themselves and to other people and how others relate to them; how they care for themselves and others (locally, nationally and internationally); how to live in harmony, finding ways to get along with others despite differences.
- **Cultural** – pupils are given opportunities to consider the richness and diversity of the world in which they live including experiencing aspects of their own and others’ cultural and religious traditions through music, stories and celebrations; pupils are also able to consider the similarities and differences between culture, ethnicity and religion.

Implementation

As a school we comply with the legal requirement that all registered age pupils take part in an act of worship each day unless they have been withdrawn by their parent(s)/ legal guardian(s) set out in the 1996/98 Education Reform Acts regarding Collective Worship and incorporate the guidance in Collective Worship as set out in DfE Circular 1/94. Acts of worship must be “wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian Character” whilst recognising the religious, spiritual, moral, social and cultural insights provided by other religions. They must also be “appropriate, having regard to the ages, aptitudes and family backgrounds of the pupils”.

When possible parents/guardians will be invited to attend when a class or year group is involved in leading collective worship. We emphasise the importance of our collective worship programme in developing our school’s ethos and values through the provision of a range of opportunities for pupils to consider important issues for life and living. Parents/legal guardians who wish to consider withdrawing their child(ren) are asked to make an appointment with the Headteacher and collective worship coordinator.

All staff in school attend collective worship with their class which conforms to a collective worship timetable devised by the collective worship coordinator. Staff are to provide assemblies for pupils that curriculum areas while being actively underpinning the school’s ethos. Each year group will prepare and lead a Christmas themed assembly. No member of staff will be required to conduct an Act of Worship that is contrary to their personal conviction, but due regard will need to be paid to the legal requirements of the 1944 and 1996/98 Education Acts.

The Citizenship Leader works with the Personal Development Leads and RE Lead to plan a whole school collective worship timetable that is monitored and checked by the Deputy Headteacher each term. The Citizenship Leader will keep a record of the acts of collective worship themes; these will be parallel to key events (school based, local, national and international) and each term’s core value.

The whole school daily act of worship will take place as follows each morning:

- **Monday:** Assembly conducted by a member of the Senior Leadership Team, subject leader or class teacher.
- **Tuesday:** ‘Voices’ Assembly- Big questions/topics for debate and discussion conducted by classroom staff.
- **Wednesday:** Singing assembly. Children engage in music promoting core values, key events, hymns.
- **Thursday:** ‘Personal Development’ Assembly. Children explore the following themes: Equality/Diversity/ Citizenship/Health/Aspiration/Careers/Relationships/online safety. Conducted by classroom staff.
- **Friday:** ‘Newington Winners’ celebration Assembly, children celebrate theirs and their peers’ successes. Conducted by a member of SLT.

These planned days may be subject to change to facilitate daily school life. These acts of worship may take place together in the school hall or in the individual classrooms using technology depending on circumstance. The length of each act of worship will be between 15-20 minutes, with additional time to accommodate arrival, departure and announcements; this will preserve the sense of community that each meeting is intended to generate. It is the responsibility of the Personal Development Leads or the staff member leading the act of collective worship, to ensure that content and form of delivery is accessible for all those present, this may mean having separate assemblies for EYFS, KS1 and KS2 where applicable. If a member of staff is unsure of how to facilitate assembly content, they must seek advice from the Citizenship Lead or Personal Development Leads. The Citizenship Lead will guarantee that opportunities are provided for marking appropriate festivals and significant other days, including charity events. Music will be played to the pupils as they enter and leave the hall to promote a sense of occasion. At times a lighted candle, flowers or an overhead projector may be used as an additional focus for the act of worship. Technology may be used in cases when assemblies take place in individual classrooms, all assemblies using technology will be emailed to classroom staff at least one hour before the daily assembly slot.

The Citizenship Lead is responsible for liaising with any visitors who come into school to lead collective worship. Practical arrangements such as timing, age range of audience and appropriate content are agreed through discussion. Any member of staff who wishes to have a visitor lead an act of collective worship must liaise with the collective worship coordinator or Headteacher before the start of the term to accommodate this. By drawing on people from the local community to lead acts of collective worship we enhance community cohesion.

In collective worship we follow the school's health, safety and well-being policy and internet safety policy. All internet resources must be checked by the staff member leading the worship prior to their use. In the event of a fire, all pupils and staff must be familiar with the exit routes from the hall, dining hall and other areas of the school where collective worship takes place. Visitors must never be unaccompanied with children/young people.

Impact

Collective worship makes links to different areas of the curriculum, sharing curriculum work through collective worship can reinforce the core values as a part of each aspect of school life. It can support pupils to develop positive attitudes towards their learning and school. Celebrating achievements, sharing, valuing others etc. are all important to the development the school's ethos.

Collective worship promotes the development of the 'whole child' – physical, academic, social, moral, cultural and spiritual. Collective worship plays an important role in providing 'space' in busy schedule to celebrate the school's ethos, reinforce 'reflective time' in the day to promote personal and spiritual growth. Providing essential opportunities to challenge stereotypes, misinformation and misconception about race, ethnicity, disability, religion, sexuality, appearance and gender. During collective worship, religions will be presented fairly and accurately and diversity and equality will be affirmed.

Ambition, Achievement, Aspiration

It is the role of the collective worship coordinator to monitor individual acts of collective worship and feedback to the leader. To ensure the pupil voice is taken into account, pupils will be asked to comment on their experience of the response to collective worship at least once a year.