



Nettleham CE (Aided) Junior School Collective Worship Policy



For all of us at Nettleham Church of England Aided Junior School the teaching, learning, attitudes and wellbeing of all our children are important. As a Christian school we believe that everyone should feel wonderful, amazing, loved, valued and unique, because God made us that way. We encourage all our children to achieve the highest possible standards and develop their skills to become lifelong learners.

As a Church of England Aided School the act of worship is of central importance to our daily routine. It makes a vital contribution to the Christian ethos we have created and which we continually seek to encourage.

The act of worship involves the whole school every day and usually takes place at 3pm. On the few occasions when this is not possible due to practical difficulties, the staff are informed of an alternative time during the school day. The precise timing of the act of worship is kept under regular review.

In normal circumstances the Headteacher leads the act of worship. If the Headteacher is unavailable the Senior Management Team assumes responsibility for ensuring that the daily act of worship takes place as usual.

At certain times during the school year the whole school attends special services in All Saints Parish Church. Currently we have a service in Church at Christmas, Easter, Harvest Festival and a range of other important occasions in the Christian calendar or the life of the school, e.g. All Saints Day, Candlemass, Pentecost and Ascension Day. We also have a special service for leavers at the end of the Summer term.

The Vicar of All Saints Church, Nettleham, is a Governor of the school, is a regular visitor and participates in our daily act of worship or leads it for special occasions. Regular visitors also include members of the All Saints congregation and representatives of local faith groups and organisations.

Children of different faiths and religious denominations, and those whose parents have no religious affiliation, attend and are welcomed in our school. As a Church school we make it clear to parents applying for places that we hope their children will take as full a part as possible in all aspects of school life, including daily acts of worship. Where participation presents a problem we will discuss how such problems may be overcome. Parents' wishes in connection with daily acts of worship will be respected.

THE DAILY ACT OF WORSHIP - OUR PRINCIPAL AIMS

- To provide an opportunity once a day for the whole school to share time together and so develop the sense of family, community and belonging;
- To reinforce and develop the Christian ethos we have worked so hard to create;
- To put forward the values and beliefs of a Christian community and offer the Christian way of living as an example and inspiration to our children;
- To use our shared day to day experiences and the life experiences of others as starting points for a closer examination of fundamental moral and spiritual issues;

- To encourage an appreciation of the differences in people, their beliefs, abilities, achievements, problems, culture and appearance, and to develop tolerance and understanding in our relationships with one another;
- To develop a growing awareness of the beauty and wonder of the world about us and to share in celebrating it;
- To provide an opportunity for quiet reflection, thought and prayer;
- To reflect upon important events in the Christian calendar and the world at large;
- To contribute to the spiritual and moral development of our children;
- To provide a daily act of worship which incorporates high quality teaching and learning experiences.

MONITORING, EVALUATION, AND REVIEW

Monitoring and evaluation are part of a whole school cycle of self-review and this will be achieved over time by asking all stakeholders to reflect on school worship.

Monitoring

Monitoring of collective worship will be carried out jointly by the headteacher and the worship co-ordinator. Useful strategies for collecting the evidence will include:

- written observations; checking that practice matches planning
- observing children's attentiveness and level of interest
- conducting occasional formal observations of collective worship and providing feedback
- seeking feedback from children, staff, parents, governors, incumbent and visitors
- observing the extent of the collective worship's influence on children's attitudes and behaviour throughout the school
- holding regular discussions with colleagues
- gathering written comments from colleagues on the worship planning sheet

Feedback will be brought to staff meetings which will review collective worship which will be held regularly.

Evaluation

The information gathered via one or more of the strategies listed above will be analysed carefully in order to evaluate the quality and effectiveness of the collective worship. The worship co-ordinator, the headteacher and foundation governor(s), including the incumbent, will be the main evaluators. Formal evaluation of collective worship will take place at **least annually** as detailed in the school improvement plan.

Withdrawal

Our policy sets out clearly our aspiration that collective worship will be a valuable and valued experience for all members of our school community whatever their backgrounds and beliefs. It is invitational and reflective in nature and never coercive or indoctrinatory. Parents have a right to withdraw their children from all or any acts of worship and are also free to withdraw from involvement in this aspect of school life. We request that those who wish to exercise this right inform the Head Teacher in writing so that school records are accurate. We also appreciate opportunities to speak with parents and staff who have concerns about collective worship, always keen to develop our understanding of sensitivities and to overcome difficulties where possible. Those pupils who are withdrawn from worship are cared for by a member of the school's staff; parents may provide suitable activities for children so withdrawn.

Review

The headteacher, governors and staff will review this policy every *three* years. A worship planning and record sheet is kept weekly to ensure that acts of worship are generally compatible with the requirements of the policy and to inform our learning and planning for further developments.

These will regularly include any formal and informal evaluations of acts of collective worship which will assist monitoring, future planning and delivery. Visitors outside the school community who are regularly involved in acts of worship are provided with a copy of the collective worship policy.

Last reviewed: February 2022

Next review due: February 2025