

Worship Policy

Start children off on the way they should go and even when they are old they will not turn from it. Proverbs 22:6

2025



This policy reflects our school vision: Newchurch St. Nicholas is a school which supports all of its community to thrive and flourish now and in the future.

Everyone in the community will be empowered to recognise their God- given potential, a strong sense of personal identity, an unshakable notion of their self-worth and the impact of God's love on them. This will be so deeply embedded in our pupils that it will stay with them all their lives.

Policy written by: Gemma Callaghan

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Approved by FGB:

Next review: February 2026

This policy has been drawn up by head teacher and SLT along with other members of staff and governors.

At Newchurch St. Nicholas, we believe equality is a key principle for treating all people fairly and creating a society in which everyone has the opportunity to fulfil their potential- irrespective of their gender, ethnicity, disability, religion or belief, sexual orientation, age or any other recognised area of discrimination.

Collective Worship is at the heart of our school life and the Governors see it as an essential part of all pupils' education. We are committed to resourcing it properly to ensure that it is of the highest standard. Collective Worship takes place every day for all pupils. As this is a Church school, members of staff are expected to attend the act of collective worship. We also invite any visitors to attend our daily worship too.

For our church school, Collective Worship is a highly-valued part of the school day as it is the time when we gather together to affirm what is important to us, what is important to our school and to our world. It provides an opportunity for pupils to embrace a time of reflection, a time of quiet, and a time to worship God. During this time, we seek ways to ensure this is relevant to, and inclusive of all.

Due to having children, volunteers and staff from a number of faiths, or no faith at all, the content and language of Collective Worship allows for different levels of response. It invites rather than coerces. Acts of worship at Newchurch St. Nicholas are predominantly and overtly Christian. However, as there are children from a variety of faiths, in addition to children from Christian homes, we do, from time to time, draw upon religious material from a variety of traditions when preparing collective worship. For example, in discussing the Muslim celebration of Eid Ul Fitr, it would be important to point out that this was a Muslim festival at the end of Ramadan and that Muslims would be celebrating the conclusion to the time of fasting. It would then be appropriate to make links with the feelings of thankfulness and to move onto the idea of Christian thanksgiving to God for all the good gifts. We actively encourage children to make links across the faiths as we know this supports all children to feel welcome and deeply valued.

At Newchurch St. Nicholas Church of England Primary School we offer a space to all:

- to think about God
- to listen to God
- to praise God

- to wonder
- to personally reflect and react to the 'ows, wows and nows'
- to reflect upon ourselves and our lives as seen as part of a bigger picture
- to receive a challenge to live differently
- to celebrate gifts and talents
- to rejoice in being unique and precious
- to explore personal belief
- to consider spiritual questions raised in the rest of the curriculum
- to learn about how values and how to apply them in our lives

Collective Worship takes place in the school hall at 9am or in your child's classroom and is led by the Head Teacher or Deputy. Class teachers lead worship in their classes. Once every half term, year groups take it in turn to lead worship at Newchurch St. Nicholas church. Every fortnight, Open the Book lead worship for the whole school and this is usually based around a Bible story. Reverend Rod regularly leads worship in school and Church services for the whole school including the Remembrance service and Easter service. Worship usually lasts for 20 minutes although this may vary. We do not rush to finish if children have responses they would like to make. Though worship is not designated as curriculum time under current DFE regulations, we believe it is a major aspect of the whole school curriculum provided by the school. Worship is a vehicle for exploring aspects of the National Curriculum and Religious Education and frequently involves teaching and learning, discussion, question and answer, drama and improvisation.

The worship plan follows the six Christian values of: friendship, trust, forgiveness, hope, truthfulness and thankfulness and also includes links to important Christian times in the liturgical calendar:

- Harvest thanksgiving
- Advent
- Christmas
- Epiphany
- Lent
- Easter
- Ascension
- Holy Spirit/Pentecost
- St. Nicholas (saint after which the church is named)
- Trinity

Worship is designed to help children reflection their own lives, commitments and beliefs based on Christian values. There is a great emphasis on deepening

children's awareness of the needs of others and the school has supported a range of charities, helping them to become 'courageous advocates against injustice':

- British Heart Foundation
- Fairtrade
- Bethany Children
- NSPCC
- Barnados
- Shelter
- Macmillan
- Various appeals e.g. Children in Need, Sports relief

Those leading worship follow these themes. On occasions, it is recognised that those leading worship may feel they need to respond to local, national or international events to support our children's understanding and question the world around them.

Within our collective worship, we provide a wide variety of stimuli to help pupils to reflect upon and respond to the central theme. These include: story-telling, interactive PowerPoints, drama, poetry, puppets, music, reflection and prayer. We light a candle at the start of every worship and say: 'The Lord is here, his spirit is with us.' We end worship by blowing out the candle and saying together: 'The lord is here his spirit is with us, walk in the light of the Lord.' The governors hold overall responsibility for ensuring that the legal requirements for worship are met, but the head teacher has the statutory accountability for ensuring collective worship takes place and is responsible for collective worship in our school.

Newchurch St. Nicholas Primary has an Ethos group which is led by the Acting Deputy Head teacher. This team evaluate worship on a regular basis and make suggestions to improve worship from the pupils' perspective. Each class also has a reflection book for all pupils to write in reflections about worship. Ethos group also lead some school worships and services at church.

Parental Rights

Parents may withdraw their children from Collective Worship. If a parent wishes to consider this option, the Headteacher should be approached. However, parents are informed that removal of pupils from Worship or Religious Education cannot insulate pupils from the religious life of the school.