

Name of Policy: Collective Worship Policy	Version/Last Review Date: September 2020
Change Log after Review	Change on page 2 (Jan 18, Sept 2020)
Statutory documents linked to policy: Gov Uk - Collective worship in schools Collective Worship copyright license NEWCASTLE AGREED SYLLABUS FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION RELIGION AND WORLD VIEWS A JOURNEY OF DISCOVERY 2020-2025	Previous review date: Nov 2019 (V4) January 2018 (V3) Sept 2015 (V2) Sept 2013 (V1)
Other Policies linked to this policy: Religious Education	Next Review Date: Nov 2021
Governor Committee Responsible	FGB

All children will achieve their full potential, with holistic support, whilst enjoying and driving their own learning, gaining self-respect and self-belief. Our classroom extends to rich, exciting environments within the forest, the beach, the city and the community as a whole.

Introduction

The responsibility for arranging collective worship rests with the headteacher after consultation with the Governing body.

All pupils at WNA, as required by the Education Reform Act, take part in a weekly act of collective worship which is broadly Christian character. Parents have the right to withdraw their children from the act of collective worship.

When a parent wishes to opt out of collective worship the headteacher would encourage the parent or carer to be instructed in how we carry out these activities with WNA's approach to RE.

Parents choosing to withdraw their children will be asked to speak to the headteacher about supervision and learning during the collective worship time.

The timing and grouping will vary as the school grows but for the present year groups the act of Collective Worship will take place through daily Assemblies or Meetings led by the headteacher and class teachers. Through these Meetings learning will be shared and children will be given an opportunity to celebrate their favourite parts of the week. There will be opportunities for the children to lead Meetings and through this collective organisation make decisions about the organisation of the school.

Our aim is to make our assembly or 'coming together to worship' of educational value. The E.R.A. 1988 requires collective worship to be part of the curriculum for all pupils, our assemblies are therefore seen as part of the education we provide for our children and part of our commitment to education for the "whole" child.

Assemblies are planned around themes to promote the aims and values we have for the children at WNA. Themes are chosen termly by the headteacher to reflect:

- the curriculum
- any needs or problems that children may have in the school at that time
- local, national and international events, celebrations and troubles
- examples of people and events from the past
- examples of people and events from other faiths
- traditional events and celebrations

We believe that worship is an opportunity to come together and think about and discuss issues relating to ourselves as individuals, the school community and the wider world.

Worship is understood in its broadest sense. Our understanding of worship differs from worship as practiced by a corporate body of believers. It is not our intention to re-create Church worship.

Our assemblies aim to:

- give pupils and staff the opportunity to worship and celebrate
- create an atmosphere where those who wish to worship can do so
- introduce pupils to aspects of religious worship in an open and honest atmosphere, drawing on the wealth of Christian and other beliefs in an open and exploratory way
- encourage a reflective and meaningful response to life
- encourage a sense of caring and sharing
- arouse a sense of awe
- Invite pupils and staff to participate in prayer should they wish to do so.

We value variety in worship and welcome:

- visitors to the school to lead and take part in our worship. The headteacher will ensure that any visitors or speakers to the school do not hold, and will not promote extremist views. A Risk Assessment will be completed for all visitors.
- music in worship and use music when the children enter and leave the Meetings . The music can be peaceful and calm, or vibrant and alive as appropriate. As singing involves children as participants in worship, the selection of relevant and complimentary hymns and songs is important. New songs and hymns are taught and include appropriate and contemporary pop songs.
- visual aids
- dance and drama
- poetry
- stories
- games
- activity based assemblies.

West Newcastle Academy will not tolerate any racist, disability, homophobic or transphobic abuse or bullying. This will be reported to the local Safeguarding Services.

We work within the statutory framework to address issues around radicalisation and extremist behaviour. This is addressed through our SMSC provision, school assemblies and community links. Any concerns will be reported to the Local Safeguarding Services and Northumbria Prevent team.