



Newtown C of E Primary School

Collective Worship Policy

Ratification Date:	March 2019	Signed: Mrs Emma Howlett (HEADTEACHER) Mrs Janet Cane (CHAIR OF GOVERNORS)
Reviewed	March 2024	Signed: Mrs Emma Howlett (HEADTEACHER) Mrs Glynis Wright (CHAIR OF GOVERNORS)
Reviewed	March 2026	Signed: Mrs Emma Howlett (HEADTEACHER) Mrs Glynis Wright (CHAIR OF GOVERNORS)
Next Review	March 2028	

School Vision

At Newtown C of E Primary School, our motto is enriched and sustained by our Christian values of **Love, Courage and Friendship**, rooted in the teachings of the Bible. We are guided by the call to *“love one another as I have loved you”* (John 13:34), *“be strong and courageous... for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go”* (Joshua 1:9), and *“a friend loves at all times”* (Proverbs 17:17).

As a school at the heart of an evolving community, we warmly welcome children and families from a wide range of backgrounds and experiences. We are enriched by the unique qualities each child brings and value the talents and perspectives that help us grow together.

We are an aspirational school serving our community. We seek to know, understand and celebrate every child, nurturing their individual strengths and talents. We prepare our children to become confident, responsible global citizens in an ever-changing world, guided by our core values of love, courage and friendship.

Through **Love**, we show kindness, compassion and generosity, building a community where everyone feels safe, welcomed and valued. Through **Courage**, we persevere, meet challenge with confidence, and stand up for what is right with honesty and grace. Through **Friendship**, we grow together — encouraging one another, celebrating each other’s gifts, and looking to the future with hope and aspiration.

We live out these values by:

- Being a caring, welcoming and inclusive Christian community where staff, pupils, parents and governors work together in a safe and supportive environment, inspired by *“Above all, love each other deeply”* (1 Peter 4:8)
- Promoting the welfare and dignity of every child, safeguarding them from harm — including physical, sexual and emotional abuse, neglect and bullying — in accordance with statutory guidance in *Keeping Children Safe in Education* (Department for Education)

- Providing a rich, engaging curriculum that equips children with the knowledge, skills and character to become lifelong learners and responsible citizens, reflecting Christian teachings and British Values
- Building strong, positive partnerships with parents, the church and the wider community, and encouraging participation in local, national and global initiatives
- Fostering our Learning Behaviours of Resilience, Focus, Independence, Self-Regulation, Respect and Boundaries, encouraging children to act with integrity, perseverance and kindness in all they do

At Newtown, we want every child to know they belong, are cherished, and are capable of great things. Through **Love, Courage and Friendship**, we grow minds, shape futures and journey together in hope.

As a church school, we strive to guide children towards a spiritual and moral life based on Christian values particularly the school values of love, grace and hope. Daily worship plays an integral and vital part of the children's day at school, giving the opportunity to join together with staff, parents and other adults in a collective act of reflection and worship.

Main Aims

- To enable spiritual awareness and encourage curiosity
- To develop the children's knowledge of Christian beliefs, celebrations, traditions and patterns of worship.
- To develop the feeling of belonging and contributing to a caring community, being mindful of the fact that children come from a variety of backgrounds both Christian and nonChristian
- To provide an opportunity for reflection and stillness through the use of 'windows to the world'.
- To help develop children's spirituality by reflecting on the self, others, beauty and beyond.
- To develop awareness and respect for other beliefs, traditions, cultures and patterns of worship
- To celebrate children's worth and uniqueness

As a Church School we must fulfil two legal requirements for collective worship:

- Provide a daily Act of Worship for all pupils
- Ensure collective worship is provided in accordance with the school's Trust Deed

The legal requirement for Church Schools ensures that every child in the school is entitled to an opportunity for daily worship, regardless of faith.

The 1998 Education Act gives parents the legal right to withdraw their children from collective worship. The parental right to request that a child be wholly or partly excused from attending Acts of Worship will be respected. Parents who wish to exercise this right should discuss this

with the Headteacher. After discussion, if withdrawal is required by the parent, the Headteacher should be informed of this in writing. Any child withdrawn from an Act of Worship will be supervised by a member of staff in another part of the school. Collective Worship must be inclusive, non-discriminatory, and accessible to all pupils, including those with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).

Worship in our school will:

- Create a time and space where we can draw closer to God and to each other
- Be distinctively Christian whilst also being *invitational, inclusive and inspirational*
- Use and promote the clearly identified core Christian values of the school
- Be related to Biblical texts or theme
- Enable participants to develop an understanding of Jesus Christ and a Christian understanding of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit
- Be central in importance to the life of our school community, which is part of a wider community that embraces the whole world
- Reflect on human existence
- Make use of the seasons and festivals of the Christian year
- Use a termly programme of themes is planned, linked to the liturgical calendar, school values and SMSC priorities. It will be planned systematically, so that there is continuity, variety and clear focus on Christian stories, values and traditions.
- Be delivered through a variety of formats, including whole-school, class-based and year group gatherings.
- Develop understanding of Anglican traditions and the practice of the local parish church, we do this through our close relationship with Revered Ray Driscoll, children's worker Anna Mellors and Haven Church, part of Gosport South parish.
- Develop understanding of and tolerance of other religions and those with no faith. This is actioned through the implementation of the Difference programme.
- Be meaningful and accessible to pupils of all faiths and none.
- Be led by a variety of people that include school staff, children, representatives from the parish church and members of other Christian denominations.

For learners it will:

- Develop personal spirituality within the school community through a range of experiences including individual and collective prayer as well as reflective spiritual opportunities.
- Engage pupils and adults with collective worship, making it relevant and transformational to the lives of members of the whole school community
- Celebrate the God given gifts and talents of individuals and the whole school community
- Make a significant contribution to the overall spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of members of the school community
- Consider the beliefs and values of others, especially those within the school community
- Raise aspirations of individuals and the school community

To comply with the Policies of the Winchester and Portsmouth Dioceses, it will:

- Reflect the trust deed
- Be clearly outlined in the school prospectus and documentation
- Involve learners and adults in planning, leading and evaluating collective worship
- Be monitored and evaluated for the impact it has on the school community by foundation Governors

Collective worship follows the **suggested method for delivering worship using the following 'central attributes':**

Gathering:

- Making special and significant this part of the day through appropriate symbol and ceremony

Engaging:

- Using the best available techniques to stimulate interest in the content

Responding:

- Ensuring there is time and opportunity for individual, group reflection and thought, so those attending can respond in a variety of ways

Sending:

- Summarising the worship in a meaningful short message used to create an opportunity for those attending to implement the ideas covered and to conclude the worship.

Based on the Collective Worship Policy for Church of England Schools in the Portsmouth and Winchester Dioceses.