

Collective Worship Policy
Nursling CE Primary School
Date of Issue: September 2023
Review Date: September 2024



At Nursling CE Primary School, we are committed to valuing and nurturing each child as an individual who will achieve their best and develop an enthusiasm for lifelong learning.

Our vision is for the children in our school to grow into responsible, caring and fulfilled adults, who actively and positively contribute to the society in which they live. We are committed to raising standards, values and self-esteem for all those involved with our school through cultivating a secure, yet exciting, environment that is positive, supportive, stimulating and enriching.

As a Church of England Primary School, we see our Collective Worship as a central part of school life. Our Collective Worship policy fulfils the statutory requirements common to all schools according to the 1988 Education Reform Act (and consolidated in the 1996 Education Act). It also fulfils the Diocesan requirements for a voluntary controlled church school, which states that worship will be Christian in content with an Anglican emphasis.

Our aim is that our worship contributes to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of all children and staff.

Our policy for collective worship supports this by:

- Recognising that Collective Worship is fundamental in providing opportunities for our pupils' and staff spiritual, moral, social and cultural development;
- Providing a daily act of Collective Worship for all pupils which enables them to:
 - Experience and take part in different forms of Christian worship of God;
 - Reflect on Christian values for schools, personal development, multi-faith festivals and curriculum aptitudes;
 - Develop a community spirit, a common ethos and shared values;
 - Consider spiritual and moral issues;
 - Respond to the worship offered;
 - Respond to Christian language and symbolism;
 - Experience stillness and quiet;
 - Experience a variety of forms of prayer and meditation. These might include praise, seeking forgiveness or quiet reflection;
 - Begin to understand the nature and purpose of worship;
 - Ensure the daily act of Collective Worship be distinctly Christian in content and follows the liturgical calendar.
- Ensuring Collective Worship, whether in assembly or class time, will:

- Be inspiring and transformational;
- Be led by senior leaders, staff, children, clergy and visitors;
- Develop the Christian vision, values and ethos of Nursling and focus on our school Christian values of love, hope and courage;
- Include a range of creative opportunities e.g music, silence, symbolism, drama;
- Involve children through opening with liturgy and closing worship with their own prayers or the school prayer;
- Celebrate and give thanks for the achievements within the school, local and international communities and occasions of significance, including festivals;
- Provide a foundation for a mature understanding and practice of worship in the future;
- Take place in the school hall, outdoors, in class rooms or the church;
- Respect the right of parents to withdraw their children for Collective Worship;

Content of Daily worship

As a Church of England school, the content of our worship is organised to:

- Open with a liturgy;
- Follow a termly annual cycle to cover a range of Christian Values, including our chosen school values: Love, Hope and Courage;
- Cover all the major Christians festivals including Harvest, Christmas and Easter;
- Be rooted in Bible teaching;
- Contain the school prayer, Lord's Prayer and other prayers written by pupils;
- Be presented using a variety of styles and to include music, story, drama, enthusiastic singing, reflection and reverence in prayer;
- Children have regular opportunity to lead Collective Worship in classes that allows autonomy in worship;
- Family Group Collective Worship is held half termly giving the children a chance to come together and lead and support one another in worship.

Special Services

We value our links with the staff and congregation of St. John's and St Boniface Churches. We hold our Harvest, Christmas and Easter services in church. The vicar or youth minister of St. John and St Boniface Churches leads weekly worship and always attend our services in the church.

We value involvement from Local, National and International based charities and agencies that are all underpinned by a Christian ethos. For example, Southampton City Mission, The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal, Children in Need, Samaritans Purse and Leprosy Mission UK, which have all recently supported by our school community.

Inclusion and withdrawal

Collective worship is central to the life of the school. However, parents/carers do have a legal right to withdraw their children from all or part of worship. Before making the decision to exercise that right, parents/carers are encouraged to discuss queries with the Head Teacher. Staff also have the right to withdraw on grounds of conscience but we encourage and support all staff to drive the Christian ethos of the school forward by participating in Collective Worship.