



Newton Tony Primary School CE VC	
'Love One Another As I Have Loved You' (John 15:12)	
Collective Worship Policy	
Policy agreed	17/10/2024
Policy review	17/10/2025 or as required)

## Our School Vision

Our school is a safe, welcoming and nurturing school that offers a sense of belonging. We are situated in a small, rural village and we pride ourselves that we know each and every child. Our strength lies in putting the needs of the child at the heart of everything we do. We offer an exciting and stimulating curriculum, with high quality teaching that provides a rich, rewarding and enjoyable learning environment for all. Through a solid partnership working with parents, our church and His Majesty's Armed forces, we encourage children to become confident, caring and independent young learners. We believe that 'Everyone cares and Everyone counts'

In our school our vision is underpinned by the bible verse '**Love One Another As I Have Loved You' (John 15:12)** ; it shapes all we do.

### Introduction

This policy is an agreed statement of the values and aims of collective worship at Newton Tony Primary School CE VC. Collective worship is valued as a central aspect of the life of our church school, through which children grow spiritually, emotionally, morally and culturally.

### Legal status of collective worship

There must be a daily act of collective worship in all maintained schools for all children, other than those in a nursery class or a nursery school. This can take place at any time in the school day and in any groupings. Collective worship in a Church of England School must be in accordance with the tenets and practices of the Church of England. In other words, the law on collective worship that applies in a community school, "that it should be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character", is not relevant. Collective worship in our school is distinctly Christian and reflects Anglican traditions.

The governing body of this school have the responsibility for ensuring that the school meets the requirements for collective worship detailed in the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Evaluation Document. They are also tasked with monitoring and evaluating the impact of collective worship on the school community in consultation with the headteacher.

In our school our Christian vision '**Love One Another As I Have Loved You' (John 15:12)** shapes all we do.

### Policy Statement

In Newton Tony Primary School CE VC collective worship is central to the life of school and is the main platform for exploring our school's vision. It is well planned and of high quality so that the whole school community is engaged on a journey of discovery, exploring the teachings of Jesus and the Bible.

Collective worship in our Church school aims to enable every child and adult to flourish and to live life in all its fullness. It will help educate for wisdom, knowledge and skills, hope and aspiration, dignity and respect, and developing community and understanding of living well together.

For many Christians in Church, worship is about honouring God and responding to the loving nature of God as revealed through the Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. We recognise that our school is not a church, rather it is a collection of people who come from a variety of backgrounds for the purpose of education. The family backgrounds of families, visitors and staff may vary and therefore collective worship is planned to take account of the differing circumstances of those present.



We aim for collective worship to be inspirational, invitational and inclusive and based upon Christian teaching and values. It aims to give opportunities for all present to grow spiritually, whatever their personal philosophy, or whether or not they come from a faith background.

Through collective worship children will be offered a space and a place for the telling of the Christian story. This will include being invited to participate in prayer, reading and reflection from the Bible, liturgy, sacrament and experience of the musical and other imaginative riches of Christianity. Opportunities to reflect on the beauty, joy and pain of the world will be given. Children will be given time to consider their responsibilities to others and to grow in Christian values such as love and service. Time will be given for celebration, both for the accomplishments of school members and to mark the seasonal festivals of the Christian (*and world faiths*<sup>1</sup>) calendar. All present will be offered time to be able to contemplate and develop spiritually.<sup>2</sup>

## Guiding Principles

Collective worship has a pivotal place in the life of Newton Tony Primary School CE VC It aims to:

- Be the central vehicle by which the school's vision is unpacked and explored so that the whole school community is challenged and engaged with the teachings of Jesus and the Bible.
- Provide an experience that will offer opportunities for those present to grow spiritually as well as to observe and respond to the presence, power and peace of God as understood by Christians, or to find their own spiritual path. This will always be invitational, offering an opportunity to take part whilst allowing the freedom for those of different faiths and none to be present and to engage with integrity. It aims to give children and young people the opportunity to develop their own philosophy and moral compass.
- Support those present in the development of their understanding of the Trinitarian nature of God in Christian belief.
- Provide a variety of different opportunities for reflection, understanding of diverse liturgical traditions, participation, challenge and enjoyment where all present can be actively involved and develop their own spirituality whilst contributing to the communal journey.
- Help all present to appreciate that Christians worship in different ways, for example using music, silence, story, prayer and reflection, It helps children and young people to become familiar with Christian language and symbolism and the cycle of the Christian Church's year so that they are offered a pattern of meanings and a framework into which they can begin to integrate experience.
- Facilitate a deeper understanding of the Christian story narrative, from creation to the present day
- To appreciate that people, cultures and beliefs differ and to demonstrate respect, tolerance and generosity towards them
- To develop young children's sense of self-worth and to provide opportunities to celebrate achievements.
- To develop a caring attitude to others and a sense of community and loyalty.
- To provide opportunities for children to plan, lead, contribute to, monitor and evaluate collective worship.
- To invite clergy of the parish, other lay members of the parish and other Christian leaders in the community [as are acceptable to the parish church] to lead collective worship and build the parish-school link.
- Give opportunities to explore a variety of ways of praying, giving those present the chance to form their own prayers using multi-sensory foci and introduce them to some well know Christian prayers, as well as a variety of prayers of thanksgiving before mealtimes and home time.
- Offer opportunities to all present to develop their skills in planning, leading and evaluating the impact of school worship with the support and shared engagement of the local church community. Children will be at the centre of this process taking on increasingly independent roles in planning and leading collective worship.
- Ensure that materials and themes for worship are carefully selected to make sure children understand the work of Christians and the church locally, nationally and globally and how this reflects the teachings of the Bible and the example of Jesus.

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<sup>1</sup> Collective Worship in a CoFE school must be in alignment with the religious foundation of the school (Christian), however there is a responsibility for schools in all contexts to mark, respond and learn from the festivals of different faiths. This may be designated as a separate act, not to be conflated with collective worship.

<sup>2</sup> "To worship is to quicken the conscience by the holiness of God, to feed the mind with the truth of God, to purge the imagination by the beauty of God, to open the heart to the love of God and to devote the will to the purpose of God". William Temple (1881-1894)



## **The right of withdrawal**

We recognise that in our school there are children whose families are members of another faith, or who hold a non-religious worldview. Part of the distinctively Christian nature of Church of England Schools is that we aim to be as hospitable and inclusive to all in the community we serve. As collective worship occupies such a central place in the life of our Church school, this is made clear on induction, and it is hoped that parents will be making a specific choice of the school knowing that the distinctive ethos will determine a Christian tradition within collective worship. By withdrawing from collective worship, it does not mean that children will be exempt from the Christian ethos of our setting, as this underpins our teaching, learning and relationships.

The 1944 and 1988 Education Acts state that parents have a legal right to withdraw their child from acts of worship. If a parent wishes to make a request for their child to be withdrawn from collective worship, we ask that they meet with the headteacher to discuss their concerns and requirements. **See Appendix One**

## **What happens if children miss collective worship?**

The law is clear – all children are statutorily entitled to daily act of collective worship, and it is not within the power of staff to deprive them of this entitlement for e.g. swimming, remedial reading or music lessons. If a whole class is missing, then a class-based act of worship can be held for them at a different time of the day. Individuals or small groups of children should not be timetabled out of collective worship, and the school may need to look at provision e.g. the use of peripatetic music teachers.

## **Development of the policy and links to other policies and documentation**

This policy has been prepared by the governors and head teacher with assistance from other staff and diocesan advisers.

We ensure that the principles for collective worship are reflected and applied in our policies and practice including those that are concerned with:

- Children' personal development and wellbeing
- Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Education (SMSC) and Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE)
- Staff recruitment, retention and professional development
- Care, guidance and support
- Behaviour, discipline and exclusions
- Working in partnership with parents, carers and guardians
- Working with the wider community

## **How collective worship is organised**

### **Leadership**

- The Head Teacher leads daily worship at the start of the school week.
- A member of staff, a pupil or small group of children, a whole class, a member of the clergy or local church eg Rev Peter Ostli-East, individual visitors or teams e.g. The Bridge lead other daily worships
- We also ensure that information about collective worship is included on the school website for visitors and parents <https://newtontony.wilts.sch.uk/having-faith-2/>

### **Planning**

- Our long term collective worship plan links to the cluster schools thematic foci.
- Worship is planned half termly using a rolling 5 year plan.
- The Head Teacher plans the initial start of the week worship
- Class worship is led by the children and either explores a question relating to the start of the week or exploration linked to children's ideas.
- Our school has invested in purchasing new resources linked to children planning worship recommended by the Diocese of Salisbury eg. Flip and praise.
- Children independently choose how to welcome and close daily worship
- Children choose a prayer from the school prayer book (which contains prayers written by our children). Many children confidently say prayers from their hearts independently.
- Our worship reflects the cycle of the Church year (see Appendix liturgical calendar). Learning ambassadors change the colour of the altar cloth to reflect the liturgical calendar.



- Our school Christian values were chosen by all stake holders: Love, Courage, Forgiveness and Hope. Our school vision 'Love One Another As I Have Loved You' (John 15:12) links to the greatest of all value 1 Corinthians 13:13.
- Our values are displayed in key areas around the school including outside on 'tree ribbons' and in wooden mosaic panels in our spiritual prayer area.
- We follow the principles of Restorative Justice encouraging children to consider how their actions/words affect others, promoting our Christian values.
- We celebrate children who demonstrate Christian values in well done collective worship and through our WWJD badges.
- We follow the RE programme 'Understanding Christianity' where explicit links are made between Bible stories and the Christian values of the school. The Christian belief in the Trinitarian nature of God is also explored in this programme, through discussion and art.
- Our pattern for worship reflects Anglican tradition
- We use a range and variety of materials, including: websites, artefacts, stories, drama scripts, artwork, music and songs from <https://www.sparkyard.com/> film clips from <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/ztkxpv4> , reflective outdoor and indoor focal points e.g. a picture, cross, pebbles, spiritual artwork and candles
- Children and adults are given opportunities to explore faith in today's world through us equipping adults to provide a safe and caring environment for children's spiritual growth that reflects Christian Values. We have purchased new bibles that are 'child friendly for younger children which ensures easier access to the word of God. We visit our local church and our vicar participates in question and answer sessions with our local vicar Peter Ostli-East. We visit Salisbury Cathedral and St Thomas of Beckett Church and invite parents/carers to join us eg. Christmas tree festival, Christingle Service, Year 6 Leavers Service, Stop Modern Day Slavery Art Exhibition. Adults are also emailed the Bourne Valley daily reflections by the Head Teacher.
- Spiritual growth through prayer, stillness and reflection is nurtured in our outdoor spiritual area. Children can suggest resources to add to the area eg. Angel ornament, crystals, crosses, yoga mat. Stillness is also encouraged in reflection time in worship.

## Organisation

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Whole school worship	Class worship (individual classes)	Whole school Singing praise	Whole school Bible reading worship (Old to New testament journey)	Well done whole school worship
12.45pm-1.10pm	Any time in the school day (20 minutes)	12.45pm-1.10pm	12.45pm-1.10pm	8.45am-9.10am

Collective worship takes place in different settings and places;

- St Andrew's Church
- Salisbury Cathedral
- In classrooms
- Remote access (Zoom)
- Village hall
- Outside eg. Remembrance day worship by the outside cross

Worship space and the atmosphere is made special using:

- The liturgical colours of the seasons of the Church Year are represented by different coloured cloths in the focal point in the corridor of the school.
- Crosses, candles, music, are used in worship around the school
- In the corridor there is a focal point displaying the theme for the term and collective worship prompts are updated weekly, including class worship responses.
- Each worship theme is represented through a 'working' book in the library
- Ritual and liturgical responses are chosen by the children using 'flipping praise' resources, including 'Jesus is the Light of the World' response : 'Shine on us always'



- Children are seated together to reinforce collective worship.
- We have an outdoor spiritual area that children can access at any time.
- The structure of collective worship is Gathering, Engaging, Responding, Sending

## Roles and Responsibilities

Roles and responsibilities of each member of the school community to uphold the principles and actions of this policy:

- The governing body monitor the reviewing of the Collective worship policy when appropriate.
- Our linked governor visits the school three times a year to monitor and evaluate Collective worship implementation.
- The head teacher ensures that the statutory guidance from the Church of England is followed. She also ensures that collective worship is recognised and valued when setting the school financial budget.
- Clergy and church partners work in partnership with the school; leading collective worship in St Andrew's Church
- Teaching and support staff model the principles of Christian values and provide a safe and nurturing space for children to develop spiritual growth.
- Children participate in daily collective worship (unless withdrawn) and demonstrate Christian values in their everyday lives.
- Parents and carers encourage children to demonstrate Christian values and provide a safe and nurturing home for children to grow spiritually
- Visitors understand that we are a church school, and demonstrate this through their words and actions when visiting our school.

## Staff development and training

We ensure that all staff, including support staff, receive appropriate training and opportunities for professional development, both as individuals and as groups or teams. We subscribe to the Salisbury Diocese Partnership Service Agreement (PSA), which provides CPD opportunities.

## Monitoring and evaluation

The Head Teacher and linked RE governor monitor and evaluate the impact of worship through pupil conferencing. Changes are implemented, if appropriate in response to the pupils viewpoints.

## Disseminating the policy

We ensure that this policy is known to all staff and governors, parents and carers and, as appropriate, to all children. This policy is available on our school website.

## Review of this policy

There will be a review every three years of this policy. Its effectiveness will be monitored by the collective worship leader, together with a senior leaders and governors. This will include discussions with children and other members of staff, observation of teaching and monitoring of children's work. Evaluation of teaching plans will form part of any review. The outcomes will influence the school development plan.

## Other Useful Documents:

<https://www.salisbury.anglican.org/resources-library/schools1/collective-worship/home-worship-resources-web-site>

<https://www.salisbury.anglican.org/schools/psa>

<https://www.bournevalleychurches.org.uk/st-andrew-newton-tony.html>

<https://www.salisburycathedral.org.uk/>

<https://www.salisbury.anglican.org/>



## **Appendix One – In the event that a parent wishes that their child is withdrawn from collective worship**

The Head Teacher will arrange a meeting with the family to discuss the request. The purpose of the meeting is to establish:

- The elements of collective worship in which the parent would object to the child taking part
- The other aspects of school life that are impacted by the Christian foundation of the school such as prayer and reflective areas
- The practical implications of withdrawal
- Whether the parent will require any advanced notice of such collective worship, and if so, how much

Where parents have withdrawn their children from collective worship and request religious worship according to their particular faith or denomination, the governors and headteacher will seek to respond positively to such requests providing:

- Such arrangements can be made at no additional cost to the school
- That the alternative provision would be consistent with the overall purposes of the school curriculum as set out in the Education Acts

If the Parent asks that a pupil should be wholly or partly excused from attending any religious worship at the school, then the school must comply.

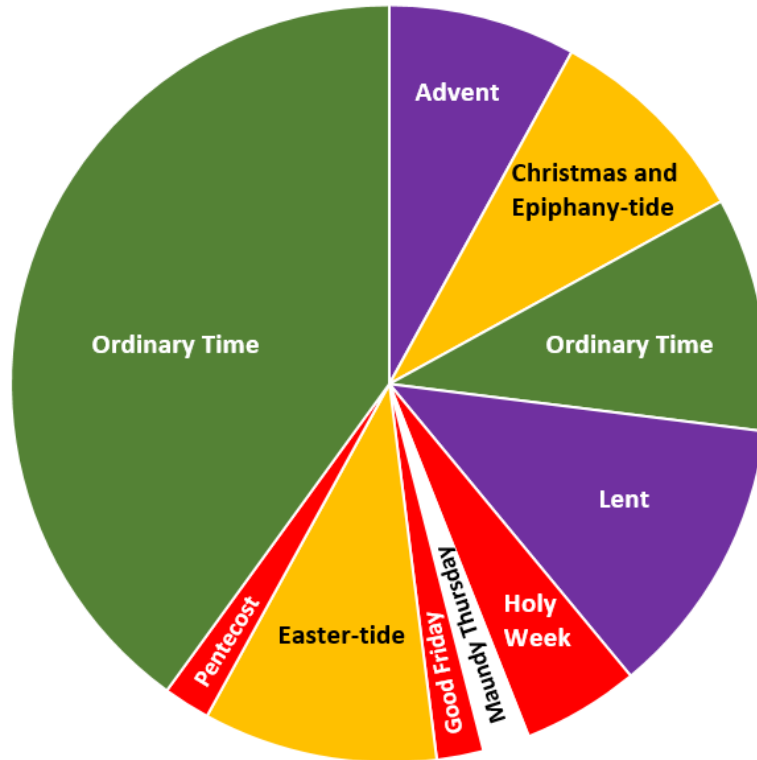
## **Appendix 2 - The Liturgical Colours and seasons of the Christian year**



# LIVING OUT GOD'S TRANSFORMING PRESENCE

THE SALISBURY DIOCESAN  
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Liturgical colours and seasons



Season	Liturgical Colour	Description
Advent	Purple	The period covering the four Sundays before the 25th December: Period of preparation for Christmas.
Christmas-tide	White or Gold	25 <sup>th</sup> December to 2 <sup>nd</sup> February
Gap Between	Green	Gap of Green until Tuesday before Ash Wednesday
Lent	Purple	The 40 days of preparation for Easter
Maundy Thursday	White or Gold	The Last Supper
Good Friday	Red	The Crucifixion
Easter-tide	White or Gold	Easter Day until Pentecost
Pentecost	Red	50 Days after Easter (lasts a week)
The Rest of the Year	Green	From Pentecost to Advent

Meaning of the colours	Purple	Penitence, preparation
	White or Gold	Joy, purity, innocence, Saints who are not martyrs
	Red	Fire & Blood, therefore Holy Spirit and Martyrdom
	Green	Everything else

In some places	Blue	The Blessed Virgin Mary
	Pink	Mothering Sunday (4 <sup>th</sup> in Lent) and 3 <sup>rd</sup> in Advent