

Reviewed: Autumn 2007

To Be Reviewed: Autumn 2008

Northill C of E V A Lower School

Diocese of St Alban's

Collective Worship Policy Document

From the Instrument of Government

Northill C of E V A Lower School aims to serve its community by providing an education of the highest quality within the context of Christian belief and practice. It encourages an understanding of the meaning and significance of faith and promotes Christian values through the experience it offers all its pupils.

Aim and Purpose

The aims and purpose of collective worship are:

- to provide an opportunity for the children to worship God in a manner appropriate to their age, aptitude and family background;
- to enable children to consider spiritual and moral issues;
- to enable children to explore their own beliefs;
- to encourage participation and response;
- to develop in children a sense of community spirit and to feel part of the Christian faith;
- to promote a common ethos with shared values and to reinforce positive attitudes;
- to teach children how to worship, traditional prayers and hymns and C of E traditions.
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The Content of Collective Worship

- Collective Worship will be Christian. Other religions will be treated with respect and taught in RE but will not provide the basis of worship.
- Collective Worship can involve the whole school together or individual classes holding their own acts of worship. Wherever possible children will be encouraged to be active by participating in appropriate ways.
- Themes for assemblies will loosely follow the Diocesan Collective Worship Themes document. Records of which are in a folder in the hall.
- When appropriate, Collective Worship will engage with any event, local or world wide of which the children may be aware and offer appropriate worship in response.
- While most acts of Collective Worship will be held in the school building at least one assembly per term will be held in Northill Church.
- The incumbent or representative from the Church will hold an assembly on Thursday of each week.
- Collective Worship is non-curriculum time and may connect with, reinforce but not be constrained by it.
- When the policy is reviewed annually we consider the question of the celebration of the Eucharist for the school community.

The Style of Collective Worship

- Collective Worship is an opportunity for children to explore the spiritual dimension of their world.
- Whole school Collective Worship held in the hall using the cross and candles given to the school by the Parochial Church Council.
- Collective Worship will include time for reflection, stories, visual aids and symbols, prayers and hymns, songs and music. The children will be given time to contribute their opinions and thoughts and encouraged to realise that there is not always an answer.
- Ethical and moral issues will be discussed but the time of Collective Worship will not be specifically for disciplining.
- Collective Worship will have a clear beginning structure and end, finishing with a prayer, hymn or time for reflection.
- We also change the colour of the cloth linking with the Church calendar.

Right of Withdrawal

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- We expect all children to attend assembly. However, any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from attending religious worship and the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during the period concerned. Parents do not have to explain or give reasons for this. This complies with the 1944 Education Act and was restated in the 1988 Education Reform Act.
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- The headteacher keeps a record of all children who withdraw from collective worship.

Monitoring and Evaluation

- A record of assemblies is kept in the hall for all participants to use to ensure progression.
- The Collective Worship themes will be reviewed on a termly basis by the Headteacher and incumbent.
- The Collective Worship Policy will be reviewed on an annual basis by the General Purpose Committee.

Signed on behalf of the Governing Body

Ian Malcolm
Chair of Governing Body