



COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

Approved on behalf of Governing Body:

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(Chair of Governors)

Approved on behalf of School:

.....
(Head teacher)

December 2024
December 2026

The logo for Nether Stowey Church of England Primary School is a circular emblem. It features a central cross with a red base and a blue top. The cross is surrounded by a green wreath. The words 'Nether Stowey' are written in a yellow, stylized font around the top half of the circle, and 'Church of England Primary School' is written around the bottom half. The background of the emblem is white.

Our Vision

**Nether Stowey Church of England Primary School
inspires a love of learning in all of us with
Christian values at our heart.**

**Our school community is a safe, caring friendly place where
everyone is welcome.**

**We give all children and staff the opportunity and encouragement to
aim high and develop their strengths and interests.**

**We strive to understand, respect and value each other, our school, our community
and the world we live in.**

We are caring. We are active. We are our best

'Love your neighbour as you love yourself' Matthew 22:3

In our school our Christian vision shapes all we do.

'Collective Worship in a Church school should enable every child and adult to flourish and to live life in all its fullness. (John 10:10). It will help educate for wisdom, knowledge and skills, hope and aspiration, dignity and respect, and developing community and understanding of living well together.

Policy Statement

In Nether Stowey C of E VC Primary worship is central to the life of school and is the main platform for exploring the 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.

For 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. A school is not a Church but is a collection of people who come from a variety of backgrounds for the purpose of education. The family backgrounds may be very different, and collective worship must take account of the varied circumstances of staff and pupils.

At Nether Stowey C of E VC Primary collective worship aims to be inspirational, invitational and inclusive and will lead people to a threshold where they can witness worship and join in, if they wish.

Through Collective Worship pupils will be offered a space and a place for the telling of the Christian story. They will be offered an understanding of worship through being invited to participate in or observe prayer, reading and reflection on 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. Pupils will be given time to consider their responsibilities to others and to grow in 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 other faiths*¹) calendar. Pupils will be offered time to be able to contemplate and develop spiritually.²

Legal Requirements

There must be a daily act of collective worship in all maintained schools for all pupils, 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.

The governing body school have the responsibility for ensuring that the school meets the requirements for 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 worship on the school community in consultation with the headteacher.

The right of withdrawal

In Nether Stowey C of E VC Primary there are significant numbers of children whose families are members of another faith, or who hold a non- religious world view. Part of the distinctively Christian nature of Church of England Schools is that they should be as hospitable and inclusive to all in the community they serve. As collective worship occupies such a central place in the life of the Church school, this should be 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.

The 1944 and 1988 Education Acts state that parents have the right to withdraw children from collective worship and suitable arrangements should be made to accommodate these children.

On occasions, a parent may make a request for their child to be withdrawn from Collective Worship. There is an expectation that parents wishing to request a withdrawal will meet with the headteacher to discuss their concerns and requirements. It may be helpful to establish:

- The elements of 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

¹ 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 other faiths. This may be designated as a separate act, not to be conflated with collective worship.

² "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)

- Whether the parent will require any advanced notice of such worship, and if so, how much

Where parents have withdrawn their children from collective worship and request religious worship according to their faith or denomination, the governors and head teacher 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.

(This means that a parent may, for example, request their child does not take part in a carol service when otherwise the child takes part in daily collective worship.)

Guiding Principles

Collective worship in Nether Stowey C of E VC Primary aims to:

- Have a pivotal place in the life of the school.
- Support pupils and adults in their spiritual growth
- 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 of worship that will offer opportunities for those present to observe and/or respond to the presence, power and peace of God as understood by Christians. This will always be invitational, offering an opportunity to take part whilst allowing the freedom for those of other faiths and none to be present with integrity.
- Support pupils 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 children to become familiar with Christian language and symbolism and the cycle of the Church year so that they are offered a pattern of meanings and a framework into which they can begin to integrate experience.
- Explore a variety of ways of praying, giving children the opportunity 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 children and staff 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. Pupils will be at the centre of this process taking on increasingly independent roles in planning and leading worship.
- Ensure that materials and themes for worship are carefully selected to make sure pupils 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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Development of the policy and links to other policies and documentation

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

- Pupils' personal development and wellbeing
- PSHE
- Behaviour, and exclusions
- Working in partnership with parents, carers and guardians
- Working with the wider community

We also ensure that information about collective worship is included in the school prospectus and / or on the school website.

How Collective worship is organised

Collective Worship is organised to provide a variety of groupings and will take place in the school hall or the classroom. Acts of worship will usually last for approximately 20 minutes, although it is recognised that this time will be shortened or lengthened when it is appropriate. Collective acts of worship are incorporated into whole school and class. Some children may miss elements of collective worship for intervention time. This will be kept to a minimal. Reception children have collective worship as part of their daily routine and structure within the classroom. As the academic year progresses reception children join whole school collective worship as well as collective worship with our church services and First Fridays.

Leadership

- daily worship is lead by the headteacher, a member of staff, a pupil or small group of pupils, a whole class, a member of the clergy or local church, individual visitors or teams e.g. Open the Book

Planning

- Collective worship is planned by the head teacher/ RE lead or class teacher or by the member of the clergy/ or Open The Book. Small groups of children are involved in planning their child lead collective worship that follows the structure: gathering, engaging, responding and sending.
- How worship reflects the cycle of the Church year
- The Christian values of the school are identified and expressed and celebrated through collective worship on a half termly basis. Autumn 1 Thankfulness Autumn two fellowship Spring 1 peace Spring 2 charity Summer 1 trust summer 2 endurance.
- Explicit links are made between Bible stories and the Christian values of the school for
- A range and variety of materials used, including: websites, artefacts, stories, drama scripts, artwork, music, songs, film clips, focal points e.g. a picture or candle
- The Trinitarian nature of God is explored by Reverend led collective worship.
- Spiritual growth is encouraged, and time is given through prayer, stillness and reflection during worship.

The Management of Collective Worship

The RE coordinator will plan, monitor and evaluate (with pupils) acts of Collective Worship.

Open The Book volunteers will deliver fortnightly collective worship. collective worship will take place in the church, as will Harvest, Christmas, Easter and leavers' services.

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.

Monitoring and evaluation

- Governors, RE lead will monitor acts of collective worship.
- Children will write reflections in the reflections book.

Disseminating the policy

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