



# **Newton Solney C of E (VA) Infant School**

## **Collective Worship Policy**

*'I can do all things through God,  
who gives me strength.'*

# Newton Solney Church of England (Aided) Infant School

## Policy for Collective Worship

### Our Vision Statement and Bible Quotation

Newton Solney C of E (VA) Infant School is a friendly, caring and happy family, where children learn in a creative environment to reach their full potential within the love of Jesus.

'I can do all things through God, who gives me strength.'

Philippians 4:13

### Strapline

Newton Solney School, with the love of Jesus, gives us wings to fly.

'Flying High'

### Introduction

RE and Collective Worship complement each other but are separate activities within the school. Collective Worship is seen as an important and vital part of our school day. It is a time where we come together to share our love of God and celebrate our achievements (and sometimes failures) together. The worship within school is based on promoting the Christian values which permeate the ethos of the school. As such, the contributions of staff, pupils, church clergy and other visitors are highly valued.

We believe that in a church school Collective Worship should be invitational, inclusive and inspiring. We recognise that not every member of the school's community follows the Christian faith, however, our daily acts of worship are intended to be truly welcoming, inclusive and exemplifying the principles of Christian hospitality. This is an approach that seeks to meet the needs of all, wherever they may be on their journey of faith and belief.

### Aims:

- To foster a sense of fellowship and community
- To offer pupils opportunities which may lead them to the threshold of worship through stories, poems, prayer, quiet reflection, drama and music
- To encourage a sense of occasion
- To foster an understanding and love of God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit
- To foster strong Christian values and reflect on the school "Do be Values"
- To celebrate God in all people

## Christian Values

Through work with the children the School Values have been identified as:-

Friendship, Kindness, Respect and Responsibility.

Through these values other values are discussed e.g. Truthfulness, Forgiveness, Compassion and Honesty.

These values are embodied in the New Commandment that Jesus gave us:

John 13:34-35

"...love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another, then everyone will know that you are my disciples".

We also actively seek to encourage the attitudes of awe, wonder and reflection.

## Legal requirements

The Christian foundation of our school is recognised in Collective Worship in ways that are appropriate to the ages and background of the pupils. The Christian year gives an annual shape to the worship.

The right of parents to withdraw their children from collective worship is recognised.

## School Population

Our school is a Church of England Voluntary Aided School and many parents, on registration forms, state a sympathy with the Christian nature of the school. Some of our children have a regular involvement as members of a Christian Church. Some families have other faiths but are fully supportive of their child learning about the Christian faith and the values that all faiths support.

## Delivery and Organisation

The headteacher is responsible for ensuring that each pupil experiences an act of Collective worship each day. The daily act of worship is led by the headteacher or another member of staff and all children (unless parents have requested their child to be removed) and, whenever possible, all members of staff are present.

Regular visitors including clergy and Governors deliver worship and this is taken into account in our planning. Once a month our worship takes place in the local Church, St. Mary's in Newton Solney.

A programme of themes for worship ensures coherence and avoids repetition. Themes include work on values, stories from the Bible and church events throughout the year. A three year plan is in place.

On Fridays, Awards Collective Worship is held with good choices and kind acts celebrated. This Collective Worship always ends with the singing of the school song 'Let's go Flying High' and engenders a strong sense of community and of shared endeavour.

The school's vision

*'I can do all things through God, who gives me strength.'*

is central to this act and we celebrate those 'Flying High' moments.

A Planning and Record book is kept with space for staff to write an evaluation.

Pupils are encouraged to behave in a quiet, thoughtful way during the act of worship thus contributing to a reflective and worshipful atmosphere.

### **Prayer and Reflection**

Collective Worship always includes a time of prayer and/or reflection. A range of prayers is used including the Lord's Prayer and prayers written by the children. They are introduced in an appropriate manner with a short time of quiet. The school is actively developing the children's confidence in reading out prayers to the whole school.

On a Monday the Worship Box is opened with a set response and answer sequence and the Worship table is set up for the week. Children take pride in setting up the table. Three candles are lit each day to represent the presence of the Trinity and to acknowledge the beginning of the Worship. On a Friday, after Awards Worship, the Worship table objects are packed away, again to a set response and answer sequence which includes saying *The Grace*. A prayer/praise song is sung at the beginning and end of the school day, including Makaton signs.

Each classroom has a Reflection Area, where there is a Bible, cross, candle (battery) and paper for the children to write prayers or just to sit and have a quiet time.

### **Hymns and Songs**

Music and actions are an important part of worship/praise. Hymns and songs are chosen according to the theme of the occasion. The children will learn a blend of traditional and modern hymns.

### **Church Links**

Children attend the Parish Church several times a year for services. Generally the services are led by the vicar and the Year 2 children, with all children taking part in the songs.

Harvest Service

Christmas Service

Easter Service

We attend church once a term for regular Worship.

Pupils and families are also invited to special Sunday services throughout the year e.g. Christingle and Mothering Sunday.

The children make educational visits to the Church as part of their RE lessons and as part of the wider curriculum.

### Equal Opportunities

All children have the opportunity to participate in the daily act of worship.

Our daily worship reflects our Christian beliefs and values and we also show respect for other's faiths and cultures, showing tolerance and understanding for each other.

### Resources

Resources are updated whenever possible and INSET provision made. Resources for use in worship include the Bible, posters, books of stories and prayers which are kept in the teachers' resource section. Music is used to create a quiet, reflective atmosphere.

Display boards in the hall focus on themes for RE, PSHE and Collective Worship.

### Evaluation

An opportunity to evaluate is provided in the record book for each Worship. Children are also given the chance to discuss Worship in the annual questionnaire.

### Policy Review

This policy was reviewed by staff in October 2024, reviewed by the Teaching and Learning Committee in October 2024, and approved at Governors' meeting in October 2024.

Davinia Gamble Headteacher

Next review date - October 2026