


COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

(NON STATUTORY)

Date of Policy Issue/Review	Reviewed November 2025 by Laura Ovenden Interim Headteacher
Policy approved/date	By FGB at their meeting on 24th November 2025
Signature of Governing Body	Signed on behalf of FGB 
Next review	November 2026

We interpret “worship” in the following way:

“A form of human activity, when we purposely put ourselves in the position of paying particular attention to those things in life which have the greater meaning for us”.

PRINCIPLES

- As a school, we follow the requirements of the 1988 Education Reform Act and the Hampshire Agreed Syllabus; ‘Living Differences’.
- Collective worship is an integral part of the broad and balanced curriculum to which all our children are entitled.
- Awareness of other religious traditions and beliefs may present issues for wider discussion. Such issues will be explored further within the Religious Education curriculum provided within the school.
- Acts of collective worship should be non denominational and wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character.

Statutory Duty of School

All maintained schools provide daily collective worship for registered pupils, apart from those who have been withdrawn by their parents. The head teacher is responsible (under the School Standards and Framework Act 1998) for arranging the daily collective worship after consulting with the governing body. Daily collective worship must be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character. The precise nature will depend on the family background, ages and abilities of the pupils.

AIMS

Collective Worship is an integral part of the life of the school community. Within the provision of Collective Worship at Newlands Primary School, we aim to develop:

- Social and moral values and awareness
- Spiritual awareness and understanding
- Knowledge of Christian values, beliefs, celebrations and patterns of worship

We also aim to provide a time which:

- Allows a pause for a reflection and stillness in the midst of the busy school day
- Provides a rhythm to the life of the school by marking and celebrating special occasion and achievements
- Facilitates the development of a sense of community, of belonging and sharing together
- Encourages children to learn how to be a part of large and small gatherings, as well as offering opportunities to perform and respond to a presentation
- Allows for celebration and reflection on things held to be of worth

PRACTICE AND PROCEDURES

Reception

Monday, Tuesday & Thursday Collective Worship led by class teachers in class at 3:00pm. On Wednesday and Friday join whole school worship.

Y1-Y6

Monday is an assembly in the hall and is led by a member of the school’s Leadership Team

Tuesday is a music assembly in the hall and is led by a member of school staff

Wednesday is an assembly led by Open The Book and attended by designated staff members.

Thursday is an assembly either in class or in the hall based around a school value and is led by a member of school staff

Friday is a celebration assembly, led by a member of the school’s Leadership Team

BALANCE OF CONTENT

The majority of acts of collective worship are based on the broad principles and values of Christianity. Themes are chosen which are appropriate to the children whatever their background or personal beliefs. A theme is explored each half term with a focus on particular issues to provide a stimulus for reflection. However, each term may include singular topics related to specific events or days of special interest or significance.

PRESENTATION

A variety of approaches are used in exploring issues. These include:

- Stories and Poems
- Art and Music
- Radio/TV broadcasts/YouTube
- Artefacts and Pictures
- Discussion and Drama
- Guest Visitors
- Sharing children's work

A variety of means is used by which children are given the opportunity to worship. These will include quiet reflection, poetry, formal prayers, hymns or songs.

Whole school collective worship can be led by any member of Staff. Visitors to the school will also be asked to lead acts of worship following a discussion with the Headteacher.

RIGHT TO WITHDRAW

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from acts of collective worship under Section 9 of the 1988 Education Act. A member of staff or a parent will supervise any child, who is withdrawn. With the parents' agreement, a child could be present during collective worship, but not take part in it.