

Policy on Collective Worship

Horwood and Newton Tracey Primary School

Required Review Frequency	Every 3 years
Next Review Due:	2024
Committee Responsible:	Teaching and Learning Committee

Version	Approved By	Date of Approval	Key Changes
1	T&L Governors	19.10.2021	New policy adopted

Philosophy of collective worship at Horwood and Newton Tracey Primary School

Providing space to breathe through an act of collective worship.

"The fact that I can plant a seed and it becomes a flower, share a bit of knowledge and it becomes another's, smile at someone and receive a smile in return, are to me a continual spiritual journey"- Leo Buscaglia

"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)

"Stillness is the altar of spirit" Paramahansa Yogananda(1893-1952)

"Happiness can be found, even in the darkest of times, if one only remembers to turn on the light" *Albus Dumbledore* (J.K. Rowling)

Horwood and Newton Tracey Primary School is a Community School. Collective worship is an important part of the school day as it gives us the opportunity to come together as a school community. It is attended by all students, staff and any visitors in school are very welcome to join in.

Collective Worship and the Law

In accordance with legal requirements (School Standards and Framework Act 1998) an act of collective worship, taking into account of the age, aptitude and background of the pupils, is provided daily for all pupils except those withdrawn by parents. The school expects that withdrawal will be only made following discussions with the head teacher, followed by written confirmation of withdrawal. Special arrangements will be made by governors to supervise children withdrawn from acts of worship. In addition, staff have the right to withdraw from the act of collective worship.

"The arrangements for the required collective worship may, in respect of each school day, provide for a single act of worship for all pupils or for separate acts of worship for pupils in different age groups or in different school groups."

The School Standards and Framework Act 1998

Rationale

Inclusion is important to our vision and we aim for acts of worship to be inclusive of all pupils. There is an expectation that all pupils will be present. Careful planning and preparation ensure that there are clear learning intentions for all pupils at different levels of understanding. Collective worship is first and foremost for the educational benefit of all pupils. It is a shared activity that allows for a variety of responses and provides an opportunity for those of any religious faith or none to focus and reflect on stimuli which allow the human spirit to respond with integrity. The school is committed to respect the integrity of the backgrounds from which pupils come.

At Horwood and Newton Tracey Primary School Collective Worship we aim to:

- Strengthen and support the school community and celebrate each unique individual member
- Give expression to reaffirm and practise the values of the school community
- Allow reflection and response to fundamental questions of life and those things that are of eternal concern and value to human beings
- Celebrate and give thanks for achievements within the school, local and international community and occasions of significance, including festivals
- Contribute to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils
- Foster and enable a concern for the needs of others – recognition of the vulnerability of self and others
- Lead pupils to a deeper knowledge and understanding of different faiths and world views
- Provide members of the school community with the opportunity to;
 - Experience stillness and quiet
 - Experience a variety of forms of music, art, drama, story that lead to personal reflection
 - Provide a foundation for a mature understanding and practice of worship in the future

**At Horwood and Newton Tracey Primary School we arrange Acts of Collective
Worship/assemblies in the following ways;**

Day	Time	Grouping	Place	Leadership	Theme / pupil's role
Monday	3:00 – 3:20	Whole school	C3	Head teacher	<i>Whole school PHSEE focus or National focus (eg Black History Month).</i>
Tuesday	Anytime through the day	Class or Key Stage assemblies	In classes	Key stage assembly led by teacher/s	<i>PHSEE focus and/or learning animals</i>
Wednesday	3:00 – 3:20	Whole school	C3	Head teacher Music teacher	Singing assembly
Thursday	3:00 – 3:20	Whole school	Class- rooms	Family Groups	<i>PHSEE/ British Values/ Golden Rules/ Paired reading/ School Council focus</i>
Friday	3:00 – 3:20	Whole school	C3	Headteacher	<i>Awards Celebration Assembly (Tea @ 3 and Family Group team points cup)</i>

Leadership, Planning and Evaluation of Collective Worship/Assemblies

There is a Collective Worship planning group led by the Headteacher as collective worship Coordinator and including representatives of the children, parents, teachers, and governors. This group meets regularly to plan, monitor and evaluate Collective Worship. The calendar for Collective Worship draws on *the Church year* / religious festivals and the school values.

Collective Worship will be treated like any other part of the curriculum when it comes to matters of planning, delivery, resourcing and evaluation. All those leading collective worship are asked to plan their act of worship in as much detail as they would any other learning activity. Staff are given appropriate training and mentoring to equip them in their roles as worship/assembly leaders.

All pupils attend an Act of Collective Worship/Assembly each day. These are organised on a rota and include whole school, phase-based and class-based worship.

A record is kept of Collective Worship. The Worship Coordinator is responsible for keeping this record.

The Collective Worship Planning Group (including the Headteacher, staff and School Council) is responsible for monitoring and evaluating Collective Worship. Children, teachers, and governors are all involved in evaluation of Collective Worship. The group reports to the Headteacher and the Governing Body.

Special services

We join together as a community at special times, e.g. Leavers' service, special times of celebration such as Red Nose Day and Poppy Day of Remembrance.

Music and art as part of our act of worship

Music is played before and after our assemblies to highlight that this is a special time for us to be together. We use music as part of our act of worship where appropriate to the theme as we see music as a medium able to evoke deep, intense feelings that are a part of an individual and theirs alone; memories, emotions of visual images.

The music, instrumental or vocal, may be selected to enhance the atmosphere for worship, stillness and reflection or to inspire thought and talking points in the areas of spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

This listening time is also used to introduce children to;

1. Music of a variety of styles, cultures and traditions
2. A range of composers and famous works
3. Recognition and appraisal of a range of musical elements

Visitors to school

Visitors leading collective worship must be given clear instructions concerning age and ability of the pupils, purpose of occasion and appropriate delivery (content and material used).

The school will ensure that checks are made about connections with the school e.g. parent, charity representative, clergy from another denomination, adviser, colleague before the day.

There will be a sharing of the aims and objectives of the visits and links made to the overall scheme for Collective worship.

The visitor's method will be reviewed before another invitation is extended.

A follow up session will be linked where considered appropriate to the developing theme.

Visitors should report to the office to announce their arrival. All visitors must sign the visitor's book and may not be left with the children unless member of the school staff is present. They will be thanked as they leave the building.

Appendix 3: organising collective worship

Suggested outline for pupil participation in Collective Worship

Before Collective Worship	During Collective Worship	After Collective Worship
<p>Setting up</p> <p>Teachers will select music/composers and have it playing</p>	<p>Gathering</p> <p>The children will come into assembly quietly.</p>	<p>Clearing up</p> <p>The children will leave quietly. Older children may accompany younger classes</p>
<p>Welcoming</p> <p>The adult leading will:</p> <p>Greet the children</p> <p>Meet visitors at main entrance (and help them to set up).</p>	<p>Engaging</p> <p>The main adult will:</p> <p>Introduce a visitor or the storyteller</p> <p>Child will say good morning/ good afternoon and may:</p> <p>Take part in Drama activities such as Open the Book.</p> <p>Support teachers with music, video clips and PowerPoint slides.</p>	<p>Recording</p> <p>The children may:</p> <p>Reflect on what they have learnt and their responses to what has been discussed</p>
<p>Planning</p> <p>The children may:</p> <p>Choose music and songs to be sung in worship that link to our theme.</p>	<p>Responding</p> <p>The children may have the opportunity to:</p> <p>Ask and answer questions. Read or saying prayers.</p> <p>Leading actions or signing to songs.</p>	<p>Evaluating</p> <p>The children may have the opportunity to:</p> <p>Discuss collective worship and propose themes and activities.</p> <p>School Council pupils to discuss this in particular</p> <p>Share evaluation findings with Governors and school SLT.</p>
	<p>Sending</p> <p>The children may have the opportunity to:</p> <p>Joining in a closing prayer (with the choice not to join in).</p>	

Appendix 4: websites to support collective worship

The following websites provide suggestions for schools to supplement their Collective Worship programme. Devon SACRE is not responsible for the reliability of these links or for the content of these sites.

http://www.assemblies.org.uk	Primary and secondary school assemblies with a broadly Christian perspective 'for every season' from SPCK. Contains a section on assemblies to celebrate festivals of a good range of religions and a 'rapid response' feature to help schools address big issues in the news.
https://www.barnabasinschools.org.uk/	CW resources to enable schools to explore Christianity creatively and confidently
https://bigstartassemblies.org/	Big Start Assemblies combine value-based themes with stories from the Bible. They are easy to plan and great fun for KS1 and KS2 pupils.
http://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/stories/	CBeebies stories for primary school age children that could be used in assemblies – includes 'Seasonal' stories reflecting religious festivals and 'World Stories' reflecting different cultures.
http://www.bbc.co.uk/schoolradio/	Audio programmes from BBC learning for the 5-7 and 7- 11 age ranges. Listen again within 7 days of broadcast or order the CD. Sets of notes for teachers also available for free download.
http://www.bdeducation.org.uk/schools/teacher/collective-worship/	Collective Worship ideas and advice from the Diocese of Blackburn.
http://www.cafod.org.uk/resources/worship	Reflections on social justice and poverty for worship activities from the Catholic charity CAFOD. Prayers, liturgies and reflections across Church seasons and a wide range of themes.
http://learn.christianaid.org.uk/	Teaching resources from Christian Aid, with assemblies for primary and secondary.
http://www.creativeproverbs.com/	Franklin C. Baer's 'Quotations for creative thinking' searchable website.
http://www.fischy.com/	Music for emotional, social and spiritual health and wellbeing from Fischy Music.
https://www.gloucester.anglican.org/schools/jumping-fish-publications/	Jumping Fish Ltd® publications support RE teaching, spiritual development, values education and collective worship in schools
https://thegreateststoryever.org/get-started/	A bitesize Bible experience: Through 15 minute sessions explore famous characters and events that form The Greatest Story Ever and discover how we can be part of it today

http://www.hibbert-assembly.org.uk/	Good starting points for sensitive assemblies from the Hibbert Trust, including advice to those leading assemblies by the Reverend John Harley.
http://www.hmd.org.uk/	National website for ideas on remembering the Holocaust.
http://www.humanismforschools.org.uk/	Assembly ideas and humanist perspectives from the British Humanist Association.
http://www.ibiblio.org/zen/	Zen Buddhist site with 'Koan of the Day.'
https://www.imaginer.co.uk/	Imaginer's resources, in particular the excellent Roots and Fruits, are highly rated by teachers
http://www.inspirationalarchive.com/inspirationalstoriesblog/	Archive of mostly Christian inspirational stories – a mixture of material, not all suitable for school assemblies.
http://www.irinnews.org/	Humanitarian news and analysis service of the UN Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs.
https://www.isingpop.org/	iSingPOP is a primary school music project that brings together school, church and community. Great videos and opportunities to record and perform.
http://www.lifesavers.co.uk/collective-worship/	20 individual worship resources 5 on each of the values generosity, wisdom, thankfulness and justice (helping children to manage money wisely).
http://www.oxfam.org.uk/education/resources/	Oxfam's downloadable resources for primary and secondary assemblies featuring issues of social justice. PowerPoint presentations, ideas for workshops, assembly scripts etc.
http://www.prayingeachday.org/reflect.html	De La Salle Brothers ('Christian Education in a Christian Community') collection of reflections and prayers for every day of the year. Click on a date for stories, questions and prayers for reflection.
http://www.primaryresources.co.uk/assembly/	Scripts for primary school assemblies, contributed by teachers.
https://www.picture-news.co.uk/	Each week we choose a current news story, provide an image, a thought-provoking question and a variety of teaching resources.
http://www.reonline.org.uk/	Religious education website with search engine to find materials for use in assemblies.
http://www.request.org.uk/	Resources for most of the Christian denominations – not specifically for Collective Worship but can be adapted.
http://www.retoday.org.uk/	Downloadable resources associated with RE Today publications (<i>password required - available free to RE Today subscribers</i>).

http://www.stapleford-centre.org/resources/assemblies/assembling-citizens	Secondary school assemblies for active citizenship and personal development from The Stapleford Centre, a Christian education organisation. Some free samples but requiring subscription for full access.
http://www.teachingideas.co.uk/subjects/assemblies/	Mark Warner's Teaching Ideas site contains a range of interesting downloads for assemblies for primary schools.
http://www.tere.org/index.php?id=59	Catholic Teachers Enterprise for Religious Education assembly ideas for primary schools.
www.thelinkingnetwork.org.uk	The Linking Network supports schools to develop a positive, cohesive ethos by helping young people to explore identity, celebrate diversity, promote community and champion equality
http://www.theotherpages.org/	Quotations, poems and images for personal and non-commercial use.
http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20110218194057/http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/teachingandlearning/assemblies/	Teachernet resources are now held on the national archives database. This is a bank of over 100 resources written by teachers for teachers. The search engine no longer works but you can access the examples via 'Assemblies A – Z'.
http://www.worshipworkshop.org.uk/	The National Society's Worship Workshop website. Intended for CofE schools but others may find useful material here for Collective Worship that is 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character'.