



Collective Worship Policy

For our schools, Collective Worship is a highly valued part of the school day as it is the time when we gather together to affirm what is important to us, to our school and to our world.

Erpingham Primary School is a VC Church of England Primary School. In addition to the national legal requirement that there should be daily worship, as a church school, we have a Trust Deed which states that worship should be 'in accordance with the principles and practices of the Church of England' and in accordance with the School Ethos Statement in the statutory Instrument of Government. At Erpingham, the school affirms the claims of Christianity underlying the values of the school, and representing the faith stance of some teachers and children. It provides an opportunity for pupils to worship God, whilst seeking to be relevant to, and inclusive, of all. It reflects our Anglican tradition as well as exploring with pupils and staff a variety of ways in which Christians worship God.

The content and language of collective worship allows for different levels of response. It invites rather than coerces.

Aims and Purpose

At the Blue Sky Federation, Collective Worship offers a space to all:

- to enable children and staff to consider spiritual and moral issues
- to enable children and staff to explore their own beliefs
- to encourage participation and response
- to reflect upon ourselves and our lives as seen as part of a bigger picture
- to promote a common ethos with shared values and to reinforce positive attitudes
- to find a space of still and quiet in a busy day
- to reflect upon the beliefs of our community
- to wonder

In addition, at Erpingham, our Christian ethos encourages all members of our community:

- to contemplate the awesomeness and wonder of God
- to make a response to God
- to explore a relationship with God
- to explore the core Christian values of our school – Love, Friendship, Courage and Respect

Planning of Collective Worship

Each half-term there is a theme for Collective worship based on Values for Life and events in the Christian church calendar. Those leading worship are encouraged to relate their worship to these themes. The themes chosen are broad enough to allow all those leading worship to approach the theme from their own perspective. This will mean that by the end of the week the pupils will have had the opportunity to reflect on the theme from a variety of viewpoints. On occasions it is recognised that those leading worship may feel that they need to respond to local or national events. All those leading collective worship are asked to plan their act of worship in as much detail as they would any other learning activity.

All the acts of worship in our school are Christian. However, we reflect other religious traditions that are represented in the school and the wider community, within class discussions and lessons.

Organisation of Worship

At Erpingham, worship follows the following weekly structure...

Day	Time	Member of Staff	Purpose
Monday	3pm	Headteacher	Setting the scene
Tuesday	12pm	Church community	Open the Book
Wednesday	12pm	Assistant Headteacher	Values for Life
Thursday	12pm	Assistant Headteacher	Development of theme
Friday	12pm	Headteacher	Celebration

Our school prayer, other prayers and singing are incorporated throughout the week.

At Northrepps the structure is as follows...

Day	Time	Member of Staff	Purpose
Monday	8.45am	Headteacher	Setting the scene
Tuesday	10.20am	SENCo	Singing Celebration
Wednesday	10.20am	Class teacher	Values
Thursday	10.20am	Class teacher	Values
Friday	2.45pm	Headteacher	Celebration

At both schools, worship may be led by members of the local clergy and may, on occasion, take place in our local parish churches. At Erpingham we have a half-termly act of community worship (Messy Church), led by members of the local church community. These are open to all members of the community and are very well attended.

At Northrepps our end of term celebration is held at St Mary's Church in the village. Our vicar often leads the discussion. Children take an active part in these celebrations and they are very well attended.

The management of Collective Worship

The governors hold overall responsibility for ensuring that the legal requirements for worship are met, but the head teacher has the statutory accountability for ensuring that collective worship takes place. The nominated person with specific responsibility for collective worship in our federation is the Assistant Headteacher, Mrs L Watts. We liaise with our foundation governors in the planning, monitoring and evaluating of collective worship.

Arrangements for recording, monitoring and evaluating Collective Worship

A record of the theme and content of the collective worship is kept by the Assistant Headteacher. Evaluation takes place in the following ways:

- Regular monitoring at both schools by the Headteacher and the Collective Worship coordinator
- Regular opportunities for pupils to reflect upon Collective Worship, considering what they enjoy, find useful and would like the opportunity to change
- A scrapbook at Erpingham recording photographs of worship and children's comments
- A termly agenda item for the school councils allowing children opportunity to discuss worship
- Monitoring of the provision of collective worship, by governors. Feedback from this routinely shared with the governing body. Monitoring is undertaken on at least a half-termly basis.

Right to withdraw

We expect all children to attend our collective worship and services. 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.

The Headteacher keeps a record of all children who withdraw from collective worship.

Agreed by teaching staff: February 2017

Agreed by Governors: March 2017

Signed by the Chair of Governors: John Longhurst

Signed by the Headteacher: Angie Hamilton

Review date: February 2019