



# Policy Statement

<b>Subject</b>	Collective Act of Worship
<b>Coordinator</b>	SMSC Leader
<b>Date</b>	June 2017
<b>Review date</b>	2020/2021

## **1. Introduction**

Newby Primary School is situated in the heart of West Bowling, in the Bradford Metropolitan District, catering for children aged from three to eleven. This collective worship policy has been designed with the school population in mind: a multi-cultural community that prides itself on being an exciting centre of learning and personal development. It is written in accordance with guidance from Bradford's Standing Advisory Council for RE (SACRE). The school has also taken great care to consult with parents and governors (who represent our local faith communities), the local Muslim community and church leaders from St. Stephen's.

Collective Worship should offer pupils opportunities to explore and share beliefs; consider the importance of prayer, meditation and silence; consider the relevance of ideas and beliefs to their own lives; think about the needs of others and develop a sense of community; and appreciate the importance of religious beliefs to those who hold them. Collective Worship also offers an opportunity to re-affirm, interpret and put into practice the values of the school. It provides a time to celebrate the various achievements of members of the community that are held to be of worth.

Collective Worship at Newby Primary School involves all members of the community and has been planned to promote spiritual and moral development within the framework of the law.

## **2. Policy statement**

This Worship policy reflects the law (i.e. the requirements of the 1988 Education Reform Act) and strengthens the community ethos of the school. Collective Worship will take place daily and will be planned so as to be appropriate to all pupils of any religion or none, to enable them to be present and take part as appropriate.

The aims of collective worship at Newby Primary School:

- Develop spirituality (\*see Appendix A for definition)
- All present should feel valued whatever their faith or personal beliefs.
- Under no circumstances will pupils be asked to accept beliefs, which are contrary to their family background.
- Introduce themes that will reflect the beliefs and backgrounds of individual pupils.
- Introduce children to the wider world, including other faiths, beliefs, events and cultures.
- Encourage a voluntary response from pupils as they make their own connections with the themes presented.
- Acknowledge and respect the responses of individual pupils and provide opportunities for them to express their feelings, emotions and connections with a range of thoughts, experiences, events and cultures.
- Will not assume a shared religious commitment.

- Will encourage pupils to consider their own place in the local and wider community and what it means to be a citizen.
- Encourage pupils to consider Newby’s own British Values and how these connect to life outside school.

The school values the impact of collective worship on the wellbeing of all members of the school community and ensures that collective worship is regularly monitored and evaluated by school senior leadership team (SLT) as part of the monitoring duties across the whole school. The assistant head teachers will report regularly, via the senior leadership meeting, where the Head Teacher and relevant Governors will receive updates on the impact and effectiveness of the planning and delivery across school. Collective worship will be a regular item on the agenda at SLT meeting.

### **3. The legal requirements: The Education Reform Act 1988**

The following table illustrates how children in each part of the school will participate in Collective Worship during a typical school week.

<b>Day:</b>	<b>EY/KS1</b>	<b>KS2</b>
<i>Monday</i>	Classes/cohort Collective Worship 30/60 pupils – <b>teacher lead</b>	Collective Worship celebration gathering in school hall – <b>AHT/teachers</b>
<i>Tuesday</i>	EYFS & Y1 = Class based Collective Worship Y2 = Collective Worship in school hall with KS2 – <b>Faith leaders/SLT</b>	Y2 & KS2 Collective Worship in school hall – <b>Faith leaders/SLT</b>
<i>Wednesday</i>	KS1 Collective Worship in school hall – <b>Head/Deputy lead</b>	Collective Worship in classes/cohort groups – 30/60 pupils – <b>teacher lead</b>
<i>Thursday</i>	Classes/cohort Collective Worship in groups – 30/60 pupils– <b>teacher lead</b>	KS2 Collective Worship in school hall – <b>Head/Deputy lead</b>
<i>Friday</i>	Collective Worship Celebration gathering in school hall – KS1 - <b>AHT/teachers</b>	Collective Worship in classes/cohort groups – 30/60 pupils– <b>teacher lead</b>

The different formats of Collective Worship allow for a variety of presentations and responses by pupils.

(\*See Appendix B for planning format guidance for levels of Collective Worship)

### **Style and Character**

The school has a SACRE determination to hold a daily act of collective worship which is of an inclusive character drawing inspiration from a range of faiths, beliefs and traditions. Pupils in classes Y2 to Y6 will meet once a week to take part in a specific gathering where religious leaders from various faiths will lead the collective worship.

## **Interpreting the law for our school**

Parents may withdraw their children from Collective Worship on grounds of conscience should they wish to do so, however, we believe that Collective Worship is inclusive and beneficial for all pupils.

Please contact the Head teacher to discuss any concerns.

It is hoped that no child will have to be withdrawn from Collective Worship however, where this is the case, appropriate arrangements will be made.

## **4. The content of Collective Worship:**

Assemblies and Collective Worship at Newby Primary School is both spiritual and educational and recognised as having a major contribution to the spiritual and moral development of all pupils.

Through Collective Worship we aim to:

- provide an all-inclusive opportunity to build and reinforce community values;
- reflect on and understand elements of life which are of value and worth;
- provide a variety of opportunities for spiritual, moral, social, cultural and intellectual development;
- provide opportunities for expressing shared experiences and interests and for celebrating special occasions together - encourage the sharing of achievement and successes in school, personal and community life.
- provide opportunities in which pupils interact with other year groups, staff and on occasions the wider community.
- Encourage children to experience awe, wonder and mystery through the themes explored;
- Encourage children and young people, whether or not they belong to a religion, to increase their sensitivity to the mysteries of life and to provide opportunities to reflect upon these mysteries and the fundamental questions of existence.
- Raise awareness of transcendence (the possibility of the existence of a Supreme Being or God) and provide opportunities to worship God (for those with a faith)
- Allow children to express their faith (if appropriate) and to explore their own beliefs, in a school setting
- Develop an appreciation of the infinite variety in the natural world and develop an understanding of the need for stewardship (e.g. conservation/environmental responsibility)
- Encourage children to identify the difference between right and wrong
- Encourage children to examine the impact of their own actions on others
- Help children to develop self-understanding and empathy for others
- Foster a sense of community and fellowship, a cohesive experience, bringing pupils together to celebrate the shared ethos of the school and the wider community
- Provide opportunities for celebration, thanksgiving and the sharing of experiences and emotions e.g. joy, hope, friendship, fear, anguish and forgiveness.

The content of Collective Worship is designed to enhance the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils. It will provide opportunities for daily reflection. It will raise an awareness of transcendence and provide a forum where children can discuss the possibility of a higher being. Collective Worship at Newby will celebrate the good in people and our community, it will praise the achievements and promote recognition of each pupil's own worth and potential. By inviting religious leaders from a variety of different faiths to support and deliver Collective Worship; children will have the opportunity to see the similarities in, and recognise the importance of, different faiths.

## **5. Conclusion**

Collective Worship underpins the current ethos of the school by providing an opportunity to develop spirituality in an inclusive and cohesive way for all pupils throughout the school. This is a significant contribution towards the school vision.

**Our Vision**

*To help each child to find and develop their whole potential in order to become fulfilled and responsible members of society in every aspect of their lives.*

**Ethos**

*We work in partnership with the school's stakeholders to promote good relationships and a sense of belonging to the school community whilst regarding all pupils as individuals and respecting their rights, values and beliefs.*

*Mutual respect is the school's cornerstone on which its success is built. ~ Ofsted 2013*

*'...pupils show a mature attitude to others and show respect and consideration. Personal development, behaviour and welfare are still strong elements of the school.' - Ofsted June 2017*

Ratified by Governors on 14 July 2017

Signature of Chair of CPC Committee .....

## Appendix A

### Newby Primary School

## Definitions of Spirituality & Morality to give clarity to the Collective Worship Policy

### **Spirituality:**

Spirituality is said to engage the emotions, the imagination, aesthetic sensitivity and the human capacity for *awe and wonder*. Arising out of this engagement comes empathy with others and the ability to construct a personally meaningful, coherent and comprehensive outlook on life. Spirituality is part of the search for our own identity and our responses to challenging events – as humans we search for meaning and purpose – something beyond self.

What actively promotes spirituality?

- An opportunity for reflection
- Discussion
- Self-expression
- Worship
- Listening
- Exploration

### **Morality:**

Morals that we hold lead us to behave in a principled way. Our knowledge of codes and conventions of conduct agreed by society inform our behaviours. We make judgements, we distinguish right from wrong. Morality can make us take responsibility for our actions and helps us to understand the consequences of our actions. Through understanding moral codes, we learn to develop socially acceptable values. These values may change and evolve over time as we grow older.

What actively promotes morality?

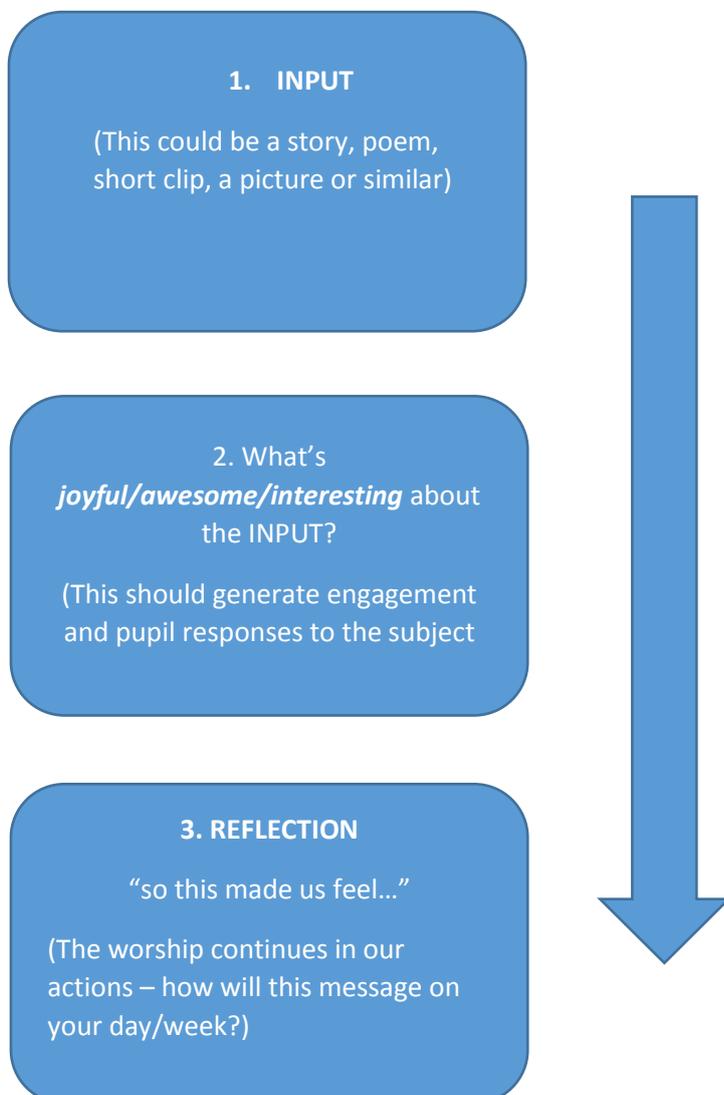
- Engaging with religious beliefs and cultures
- Family values
- Elders within our society
- Open discussion/debates
- Laws of the land including democracy
- School community and the rules we observe

## Appendix B

### Format to underpin planning for all Collective Gatherings

*The following steps should be used when planning any collective gatherings. These steps work for all levels of collective worship.*

1. Input (Initial stimulus - a story, poem, short clip, a picture or similar)
2. What's joyful/awesome/interesting about it? (This should generate engagement and pupil responses to the subject)
3. Come to reflection: "so this made us feel..." How do we show thanks/appreciation for what we have? Help pupils to reflect on the stimulus. Model the process of reflection. \*NB. In the rest of the day how will this message impact on your day/week? [Key message = the worship con



## Appendix C

### Collective Worship Themes at Newby

<b>HT:</b>	<b>Theme:</b>
1	Fresh start (enthusiasm & goals)
2	Belonging (community & faith)
3	Resilience (Don't give up & be positive)
4	Respect (tolerance & forgiveness)
5	Relationships (kindness & compassion)
6	Collaboration (working together to achieve & sharing)

The above themes would run through the whole academic year and enable us to tie together all collective worship gatherings through the week.