



# North Curry C of E Primary School

## Collective Worship Policy



Signed by:

*H Morley* Headteacher

G Slocombe Chair of governors

Date: 18<sup>th</sup> September 2024

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Review date: September 2025

Introduction

This policy should be taken and used as part of North Curry Church of England Primary School's overall strategy and implemented within the context of our vision, instrument of government aims and values as a Church of England school.

## **Vision**

**Together Everyone Achieves More through...**

**Loving learning, loving one another and loving life itself.**

**'Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself' (Matthew 22: 37-39)**

*AGAPE: The Good Samaritan (Luke 10: 25-37)*

North Curry C of E Primary School is a church school and as such, our principle beliefs and values are derived from the foundation of the Church of England.

We aim to create a safe happy, welcoming and stimulating environment where each member of the school community feels valued and cared for, both as an individual and as a member.

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*'Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself' Matthew 22: 37-39*

*AGAPE: The Good Samaritan Luke 10: 25-37*



## **Introductory Statement**

This policy statement has been formally adopted by the governing body, in consultation with the Headteacher.

As a Voluntary Controlled Church school academy this policy;

- is consistent with the overall aims of the school as expressed in our school vision and values.
- is consistent with the Christian Foundation of the school as expressed in the Trust Deed
- takes account of worship guidelines. 'Church School Leadership' – a handbook for headteachers of Church of England Schools. Framework for the Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools (SIAS)
- links to legislation related to Collective Worship (see DfES Circular 1/94 and the 1998 School Standards and Framework Act)

### **Definition of collective worship**

For the purpose of this policy, "**collective worship**" is an act which is additional to, and separate from, ordinary school activities. Collective worship is a time when individuals collaborate to promote the Christian values which are fundamental to the school's ethos.

### **Aims and Objectives**

Collective worship at North Curry C of E Primary School aims to:

- Enable pupils to consider spiritual and moral issues, as well as explore their own beliefs.
- Encourage participation and response via active involvement or through listening and participating in the worship offered.
- Provide pupils with the opportunity to plan, lead or contribute to collective worship.
- Provide a peaceful environment to enable stillness, prayer and reflection.
- Help pupils to develop an awareness of their community and the spirit of helping others.
- Develop a spirit of community and an understanding of individuals with other beliefs.
- Acknowledge diversity and affirm each individual's life stance, whether religious or not.
- Promote a common ethos and shared values.
- Reinforce positive attitudes.

## Organisation and Planning

- a. The headteacher is responsible for creating the agenda for collective worship in discussion with the governing body.
- b. The act of worship will be held for 20 minutes daily in the school hall.
- c. Each assembly held will have a theme relevant to current affairs and topics agreed by the headteacher and governing body.
- d. The content of all acts of collective worship will be considered to ensure suitability and relevance to pupils of all ages and backgrounds.
- e. The headteacher will establish a timetable for collective worship to make sure progression from each session is carried on to the next, as well as to ensure that learning is practically applied by pupils to their lives inside and outside of school.
- f. The school may invite visitors or guest speakers to speak during collective worship, in accordance with the timetabled theme.
- g. Guest speakers will be required to adhere to the school's Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy and Staff and Visitors Code of Conduct during their visit.

Day of the week	Delivery of programme
Monday	A whole-school singing style worship assembly is delivered by class teachers to teach the children the weekly hymn linked to the theme wherever possible.
Tuesday	Whole School Worship These are delivered by class teachers on a rota basis. The themes for these assemblies are linked to the weekly theme and are differentiated appropriate to pupils' ages. A hymn, prayer and reflection time are included.
Wednesday	Whole School Worship Headteacher or the Worship Warriors to further explore the weekly theme differentiated appropriate to pupils' ages. A hymn, prayer and reflection time are included.
Thursday	A whole-school assembly is delivered by visiting clergy either from the Church of St Peter and St Paul, the North Curry and Curland Methodist Church or the North Curry Baptist Church.

	Once a month the 'Open the Book' clergy team come in to lead worship alongside the Year 6 children.
Friday	A whole-school celebration assembly is delivered by the headteacher or member of the SLT or each class on an annual rolling programme.

## Implementation

The school aims to promote rich and meaningful experiences of collective worship that are appropriate to pupils' needs, ages and interests by:

- Presenting displays that promote and enhance spiritual ideas and thoughts.
- Encouraging pupils to reflect and contemplate on their thoughts, feelings and beliefs.
- Using artefacts, secular stories, resources, music, art, drama and speakers to engage pupils' interest.
- Involving pupils in different experiences of worship, e.g. silence, prayer, rituals, shared or written prayers, etc.

## Right to withdraw

- a. Parents/carers have the right to withdraw their child from collective worship and are not required to provide a reason for doing so.
- b. Parent/carers will be encouraged to discuss their decision with the headteacher following a request of withdrawal in terms of:
  - The elements of worship in which the parent/carer would object to the pupil taking part.
  - The practical implications of withdrawal.
  - Whether the parent/carer will require notice in advance of such worship, and if so, what period of notice is preferred.
- c. Withdrawal of a pupil usually involves their physical absence; however, if it is agreed so between the headteacher and parent/carer, the pupil may remain in the collective worship but will not be involved in any discussion.
- d. The headteacher will arrange alternative provision for any pupil who is withdrawn from collective worship; this may involve religious worship relevant to their particular faith or denomination provided that:

- The effect of the alternative provision would not replace the denominational collective worship with that of the statutory, non-denominational worship.
- Such arrangements can be made at no additional cost to the school.
- The alternative provision would be consistent with the overall purposes of the school curriculum.

### **Pupils with special educational needs and disabilities**

The school will take into account pupils of different ages and abilities when delivering the collective worship programme.

The school will arrange for Teaching Assistants to assist pupils with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) if the need arises.

## **6 Monitoring and review**

- a. This policy will be reviewed on an annual basis by the headteacher in agreement with the governing body.
- b. This policy and current practice will be evaluated in accordance with feedback from questionnaires, formal monitoring reviews and informal class discussions/comments from the Collective Worship Comments Book.
- c. Any changes made to this policy and the collective worship programme will be communicated to all members of staff.
- d. The scheduled review date for this policy is September 2025.

## **8 Conclusion**

All pupils are encouraged to learn about the beliefs of others in addition to their own as part of the religious education national curriculum. Collective worship is provided in a daily whole-school assembly, and is a time for the whole school to reflect on spiritual, moral, social and cultural issues. It is also distinctively Christian and contributes fully to the life and wellbeing of the school.