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### Collective Worship

At Skelton Newby Hall and Sharow CE Primary Schools we understand worship to be a special act or occasion whose purpose is to show reverence to and praise God. Collective worship involves all members of the school coming together and participating in an act of worship to ensure that there is a common vision and sense of belonging by all as part of our school and local community

It is our intention that Collective Worship that we will fulfil the legal requirements of the 1988 Education Reform Act, that is in accordance with the principles of the Church of England.

The spiritual, social, cultural and moral welfare of all pupils, whatever their background, is of prime concern to us as a school. However, our core Christian values of Love, Courage, Community, Forgiveness, Joy, Respect, and Creativity are built into our ethos and teaching and are reflected in the themes on which our daily acts of worship are based.

### Aims and Purpose

The aims and purpose of our Collective Worship are:

- To provide an opportunity for the children to worship God;
- For children to be able to link Christian values in their lives, in what they say and what they do, actively living out these values
- For children to be able to see Christian values in others
- To enable children to consider spiritual and moral issues;
- To enable children to explore their own beliefs and cultures and empathise with those of others;
- To encourage active participation and response in worship;
- To think about the needs of others and to develop in children a sense of community spirit by helping them learn about our nation's history, culture, traditions and it's developing and



changing nature thus motivating them to be active and involved members of their own communities;  
To promote a common ethos with shared values and to reinforce positive attitudes;  
To reaffirm, interpret and put into practice the values of the school;  
To teach children how to worship and consider the importance of prayer and reflection;  
To consider global issues which impact on the lives of children e.g. environmental issues;

No single act of worship can reflect all these aims but over a period of time meaningful acts of worship fulfil them.

### Organisation of Collective Worship

We hold a daily act of worship in our schools.

We conduct worship in a dignified and respectful way. We tell children that worship time is a period of calm reflection. We regard it as a special time and expect children to behave in an appropriate way. We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music and candles or other objects that act as a focal point for the attention of the children.

The children can put a prayer pebble in a basket as they enter collective worship, to pray for a particular person or situation. These are then placed by the prayer candle at the front of the hall and a quiet time of prayer and reflection is held.

We use a large screen to display visual aids to enhance the children's spiritual experience.

The Headteacher and other members of staff conduct worship, along with local clergy or other representatives of local religious groups conduct them instead.

We have a Children's Collective Worship Committee who meet regularly with the head teacher to review collective worship. They support the delivery of collective worship by setting up the space. A range of children from across the schools lead worship each week.

Most of our services are held in school and at least once a week we worship in church.

We take the themes of our worship from the traditions of the Christian faith and we often reflect on the festivals and events of the Christian calendar and those of other faiths. Sometimes the themes of our worship reflect and build on topics that we teach as part of the school curriculum, particularly PSHE and SEAL.

Our worship reflects the achievements and learning of the children. We encourage the children to participate in worship by raising issues that they have discussed in their classes. Worship offers an opportunity to acknowledge and reward children for their achievements both in and out of school. They play an important part in promoting our vision in which we promise to inspire everyone to flourish together by living life in all its fullness

### Inclusion



Our school worship is about sharing what is meaningful and significant in our lives. It is about sharing our common concerns and responsibilities and developing positive attitudes and values. It is about affirming our equality of each individual in God's sight, whatever a child's gender, ethnicity, physical or mental ability.

The staff and governors are committed to ensuring that every child in the school will derive benefit from Collective Worship, meeting the needs of all. We ensure that materials used are appropriate to a range of abilities, aptitudes and interests.

### Monitoring

Monitoring strategies currently used by CCWC, Governors and staff for assessing the outcomes of Collective Worship are:

- Observation of the children's attentiveness and level of interest shown during worship.
- Feedback from pupils in CCWC, both written at the end of Collective Worship and verbal in meetings.
- Governor's feedback from observed collective worship sessions.
- Observation of the children's general behaviour in and around school and to one another, actively living out the Christian values.

The outcomes of these reviews are discussed at staff meetings and any new initiatives are implemented.

### Right of Withdrawal

We expect all children to attend worship. 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.