



New Holland Church of England and Methodist Primary School



Collective Worship Policy

As a church school, New Holland Primary seeks to live out the church's philosophy of "Valuing all God's children" paying particular attention to the Christian Vision, "Looking forward with hope. Flourishing. Doing all the good we can."

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Adopted by Governors	Autumn 2025
Local Authority Version Date	N/A
Monitoring/Review Date	Autumn 2026
Consultations/Training	Miss Hayley Twidale

At New Holland Church of England and Methodist Primary School, we believe that Christian worship is a fundamental part of our school life. We understand that worship is a special time of day and offers our children an opportunity to reflect and to consider their own beliefs and values. It provides opportunities for our school community to come together with a member of staff and participate in a daily gathering.

Collective Worship reflects our Anglican and Methodist traditions as well as exploring with pupils and staff a variety of ways in which Christians worship God. However, we recognise that some members of our school community may have a commitment to other faiths and there may be others with no particular tradition to any faith. Therefore, the language and content of Collective Worship allows for different levels of response and invites rather than coerces. All children are **invited** to prayer.

The Legal Position

We seek to comply with the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 (Section 70 and Schedule 20) as follows:

- In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act, all acts of Collective Worship Church schools must be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character'.
- All registered pupils (apart from those whose parents exercise the right to withdrawal) must on each school day take part in an act of Collective Worship.
- The daily act of Collective Worship should be conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Trust Deeds of the school and the ethos statement in the Instrument of Government and should be consistent with the beliefs and practices of the Church of England.
- Acts of worship must be appropriate for **all** in that they should be inclusive, invitational and inspiring and take account of the pupils' age, aptitude and family backgrounds.
- The daily act of Collective Worship will normally take place on the school premises (indoors or outdoors), and a range of local churches, including the Methodist chapel, on special occasions.
- Responsibility for the arrangement of Collective Worship in a Church of England school rests with the Governing Body in consultation with the headteacher.

Aims of Collective Worship

At New Holland, Collective Worship is of a broadly Christian nature, however we aspire to develop our children's spiritual and moral development linking in with our vision of *"Looking forward with hope. Flourishing. Doing all the good we can."* This reflects our Anglican and Methodist traditions. Our Collective Worship aims to give our children the opportunity to:

- Feel a sense of belonging to a group that shares and celebrates together and experiences a sense of connectedness to others
- Explore the big questions in life and respond to national events and current affairs

- Reflect on the character of God and the teachings of Christ
- Foster respect and deepen spiritual awareness
- Celebrate special times in the Christian calendar and other special events
- Help children make their own judgements and form opinions on important issues
- Reflect upon ourselves and see our lives as a part of a bigger picture
- To explore the Christian values of the school: Love, Perseverance, Respect, Honesty, Hope and Compassion.

Spiritual and moral development

It is our vision that Collective Worship will also provide opportunities for the spiritual and moral development of the child. Such opportunities may include:

- Have an opportunity to build a relationship with God
- Explore and reflect more deeply on important moral and social issues within a Christian context
- Celebrate the school community and the individual values each person brings.
- Foster a sense of enjoyment and fascination in learning about others and the world around them
- Nurture the use of imagination and creativity in their learning
- Appreciate the values and beliefs that others live by and have a personal sense of right and wrong.
- Provide a safe space in which children can express thoughts and feelings.
- Provide opportunities for the school community to be still and have a quiet moment in a busy day
- Understand that society's view can change and that there are often disagreements around contentious issues
- Encourage global citizenship and social responsibility
- Develop a sense of increasing respect and understanding in order to live cohesively in multicultural societies
- Feel a sense of belonging to a community that shares and celebrates together, as well as being thoughtful or sad together

Organisation of Collective Worship

Collective Worship takes place daily usually in school at 9 - 9.15am (times and venue may change depending on the type of worship). Collective Worship always includes a time of prayer and/or reflection and hymn practice. It is not a requirement that children must engage in prayer but invitational.

The format of Collective Worship is understood by all staff. We create an appropriate worshipful and reflective atmosphere by using music, a candle and displaying a cross which acts as a focal point for the children.

A range of faith leaders from the community are invited to lead Collective Worship once a week where possible. Children are often invited to participate and respond in Worship.

Collective Worship will take place in one of the local churches at least once per term. Parents and carers are invited to worship in church and to our weekly Celebration Worship.

Worship in school usually follows a welcome by the member of staff leading the worship and a response from the children. A candle is lit whilst everyone says "we light the light in the name of the son who came to Earth and stretched out his arms for me". This reminds us of the light Jesus brings into our world. Our Worship closes with a prayer and the candle is extinguished whilst the school vision "*Looking forward with hope. Flourishing. Doing all the good we can*" is spoken.

Planning and content

Each half term there is a theme for Collective Worship linked to one of our Christian values. Those leading worship are encouraged to relate their worship to this theme. During the week, children will have further opportunities to reflect on the theme from their own perspectives.

This pattern is flexible and on occasions it is recognised that teachers and leaders may feel they need to respond to local or national events.

Within our Collective Worship we provide a wide range of stimuli to help pupils reflect and respond such as: stories, music, power point, art, puppets, drama, questioning, singing and praying.

As we are an Anglican and Methodist school, we reflect aspects of both Anglican and Methodist worship. We follow the cycle of the Anglican and Methodist year; Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter and Pentecost and some saints' days. Our Collective Worship follows the teachings of John Wesley.

Evaluation and monitoring

The quality of worship is evaluated by the Executive Headteacher. A record of the theme, content and timetabling of Collective Worship is recorded by the Collective Worship Lead. Further evaluations are taken place by staff members and the children.

The governors hold overall responsibility to monitor the provision of Collective Worship by asking a representative to attend a session per term and then feeding back to the governing body. Governors ensure that collective worship is reviewed on a regular basis.

Rights of withdrawal

Parents and carers have a right to withdraw their children from all or any acts of worship. If a parent or carer wishes to consider this option, please approach the

Executive Headteacher and the school will make alternative arrangements. The Executive Headteacher will then record this request and the Governing Body will be informed of the number of children withdrawn from Collective Worship.