



Blue Hills Federation



COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY SEPTEMBER 2023

The Blue Hills Federation

The Blue Hills Federation is a collective of three primary schools – Clunbury CE Primary School, Newcastle CE Primary School and St Mary’s Bucknell CE Primary School. All three schools share one Executive Headteacher and one Governing Body. When using the term ‘Blue Hills Federation’ within this policy, it is in reference to all three schools. When policy only applies to one school that school will be named specifically. Newcastle CE Primary School does not have a nursery or a preschool, therefore any references to nursery or pre-school do not apply to Newcastle CE Primary School.

Our Vision

Proverbs 22:6 - Good News Bible

‘Teach children how they should live, and they will remember it all their lives.’

We are a caring Church Federation bringing together and serving many communities. We provide nurturing environments that facilitates learning for all. We encourage everybody to become confident, sociable and responsible citizens who achieve to the best of their ability in preparation for a fulfilling future.

Our Values

Trust and Truth; Joy and Happiness; Love and Respect; Thankfulness;
Friendship and Family; Perseverance and Resilience

Review Date: September 2026

Collective Worship Policy

Aims

- To develop an appreciation of religious, cultural and moral values
- To help children develop lively, enquiring minds, able to question, discriminate and argue rationally

Principles

We believe that the act of collective worship should provide:

- A doorway into worship, through which all can look, but only the committed are expected to enter
- A sense of special occasion
- Activities from the rich diversity of worship activity e.g. readings, singing, prayer, reflection, meditation, use of symbol and artefact, performance of music, drama and/or dance, the sharing of personal values, through the use of personal story or anecdote
- Opportunities to explore and learn about the beliefs, stories, values, practices and traditions of Christianity
- Time to consider the spiritual dimensions of life, evoking responses e.g. amazement, awe, wonder, thankfulness, anger, sadness, delight in life.

We also believe that hypocrisy should be avoided and personal integrity emphasised. The act of worship should be capable of eliciting a response from pupils, including those who do not come from Christian families.

It should:

- Respect their feelings and thoughts and involve them in an activity with which they can identify
- Allow them to respond in a positive manner personally or collectively - in thought, or word or silence
- Create a moral and spiritual climate which will have relevance and meaning for as many pupils as possible
- Allow for them to be both informed and challenged, according to their stages of intellectual or emotional development.

Inclusive language (e.g. "We believe that"..... or "We will all pray") will be avoided in favour of a more open approach, (e.g. "Christians believe that"..... and "I invite you to join me in this prayer".....)

Legal Requirements

Schools are required to:

- Provide a daily act of collective worship for all pupils
- Ensure that the majority of acts of worship taken over a term will be of a "wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character"
- Ensure that the broad traditions of Christian belief reflected in the act of worship should be appropriate to the family backgrounds of the pupils and their ages and aptitudes
- Ensure that pupils and teachers can opt out of attending on grounds of conscience
- In Controlled and Aided schools the GOVERNING BODY are responsible for the act of worship after consultation with the Headteacher
- In County schools the Act of Worship **must** take place at the school. In Church schools they can be held elsewhere, i.e. the church.

Guidelines

Organisation and Content

Weekly themes are followed to provide coherence and continuity, but they are open-ended to allow for diversity in planning and delivery. Our planning is flexible to allow for changing situations and events both within the schools and outside.

1. The act of collective worship takes place daily in the Hall, classroom or outside. On Fridays there is a Praise collective worship where children share their work and achievements. This takes place from 9.00 – 9.20am with the exception on Wednesdays when Rev Caroline leads the Collective Worship from 2pm. We are regularly joined by Open the Book or there will be a singing collective worship focussing on the hymn of the week or an upcoming festival. Children help to lead Collective Worship and Class 1 hold there own Collective Worship on Thursday afternoons.
2. It is led by a member of staff allowing children the opportunity to discuss ideas with adults and develop their own opinions.
3. The children enter the Hall, either in silence or to the accompaniment of music.
4. They sit on the floor in front of a table draped with a cloth, on which there is a candle.
5. The act of worship will include a period of stillness, silence or moment of reflection in which the children contemplate the topic of the collective worship and a prayer which children are encouraged to take part in but if they wish, they may just sit quietly.

Links with the Church

The Vicar leads an act of collective worship once a week and at specific times in the Christian calendar. If there is no vicar available, a member of staff will lead that particular worship. Open the Book attend the schools every fortnight. The children lead a Harvest Festival for parents in the church; mark Remembrance; hold a Christmas service, Easter service and a Year 6 Leaver's Service at the churches.