

Collective Worship Policy

Our Christian Vision is that - Everyone is welcome.

Everyone who spends time learning and growing at Longhoughton is encouraged to reach their full potential with **courage, compassion** and **creativity** to make a difference in the future. We are **respectful** of God's world, working together to create a loving and caring **community**.

This is founded in 1 Peter 4:10 - 11 "God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of gifts. Use them well to serve one another."

Aims and purpose

The aims and purpose of collective worship are:

- to provide an opportunity for the children to worship God
- to enable children to consider spiritual, moral and cultural issues
- to enable children to develop and explore their own beliefs
- to encourage participation and response
- to develop in children a sense of community spirit
- to promote a common ethos with shared values and to reinforce positive attitudes
- to show children how to worship
- to help children develop respect and sensitivity to the beliefs and values of others
- to promote respect, tolerance, and understanding for those with differing beliefs and backgrounds

Collective worship

We understand worship to be a special act or occasion with the purpose of showing reverence to God. Collective worship involves members of the school community coming together and participating in worship.

In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act, which states that collective worship should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character', we base our worship on the teachings of Christ and traditions of the Christian Church. However, we conduct our worship in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faiths and beliefs of all members of the school.

While the majority of acts of worship in our school are Christian, we also hold worship that reflects other religious traditions that are represented in the school and the wider community.

Organisation of collective worship

We hold a daily act of collective worship in our school, which is normally a whole-school worship, although there is class led worship once a week. One daily act each week celebrates the children's achievements as 'Wall of Fame'. Another daily act is musically based.

We conduct worship in a dignified and respectful way. We tell children that this is a period of quiet, calm reflection. We regard it as a special time and expect children to behave in an appropriate way. We ask them to be quiet and thoughtful and to listen carefully to the teachings and participate fully in prayer and hymns. We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music and candles that act as a focal point for the attention of the children.

Longhoughton C of E Primary School
Think, Learn, Love and Play

The Headteacher or other members of staff frequently conduct worship, and are supported by local clergy/laity or other representatives of local religious groups. At least once a term the children attend a service in the village church.

We take the themes of our worship from the traditions of the Christian faith and we often reflect the festivals and events of the Christian calendar. Sometimes the themes of our class worship reflect and build on topics that we teach as part of the school curriculum. We plan our worship as part of a series of themes well in advance of the day they take place.

Through worship the children will develop a clearer understanding of The Lord's Prayer. The children are given the opportunity to offer their own prayers during worship. This may be with prayers they have written or during personal quiet reflection time.

Worship plays an important part in promoting the vision of the school, which is that all children are valued and all achievements are recognised. It offers an opportunity to acknowledge and reward children for their achievements both in and out of schools.

Each term, we invite parents of the children who are leading the worship to join us to take part in the Christian life of our school.

Right of withdrawal

We expect all children to attend worship. However, any parent can request permission for their child to be withdrawn from collective worship then the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child. 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.

Monitoring and review

This policy will be reviewed every 3 years.

Author	Reviewed Date
HT, Audrey Jamieson & Barbara Galbraith	20 th May 2009
Reviewed	Revision date
Curriculum, Monitoring & Evaluation Committee Two - Strategic	June 2011, October 2014, March 2018, Summer 2021
Staff	September 2014, March 2018, April 2021
Signed	