

Collective Worship at Norton Free C of E School.

Our vision statement:

‘Norton Free C of E Primary School is a caring, Christian Community, with Jesus Christ at the heart of everything we do. It provides a safe, nurturing environment enabling all children to flourish, to be the best they can be, to value themselves and others and to live joyfully and in peace’.

Vision:

Our school is a **caring Christian community** which values every individual member. Our aim is for each child to feel secure and happy at school whilst developing a love of learning. Each child is different and **unique in the eyes of God** and we encourage him or her to take pride in individual achievements and to strive for excellence. In order to achieve these aims, we believe it is essential for our school to work closely with parents, carers and the community to enable children to become life-long learners and responsible members of society. Our **Christian ethos** is **central** to the life of the school with **Christian values at the heart** of the community. These values are lived and not just laminated. We are committed to providing a **kind, caring** environment where every child thrives and is supported to achieve and **to be the best they can be** in order to reach their potential. We will consider the **whole child** when the children are with us and aim to provide the support needed for them to flourish. We strive to develop our children’s spirituality through an awareness of Christianity, as well as other religions. We are committed to providing an engaging learning environment, one that equips and prepares our pupils for the 21st Century. We also believe that everyone in our school should enjoy their learning and feel proud of their achievements. Our school motto is on the children’s uniform – **‘Caring, Confident and Accomplishing’**. Our aim is for the children to begin the next phase of their education as Caring and Confident citizens that have achieved and accomplished what they wanted to at Norton Free.

We provide our children with the opportunity to learn to worship and grow in their understanding of God and themselves. We believe that, at its heart, Collective Worship involves all members of the school coming together and participating in an assembly, to sing and pray, to share and communicate their feelings with one another and to God. We expect everyone to take an active part in the assembly.

The **aims and purpose** of collective worship are:

- ✓ to provide an opportunity for the children to worship God
- ✓ to enable children to consider spiritual and moral issues
- ✓ to enable children to 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 provide them with thought and reflection time
- ✓ to teach children how to worship

Our worship reflects the school’s religious character and is ‘clearly Christian’. We base our assemblies on the teachings of Christ and traditions of the Anglican Church. However, we conduct our assemblies in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs of all members of the school.

We hold a daily act of collective worship in our school, which is usually a whole-school assembly. We conduct our worship in a dignified and respectful way. Children know that Collective Worship time is a period of calm and a time for reflection. We regard it as a special time and expect children to act in an appropriate way. Non-negotiables have been shared with the children about how we expect them to behave in assembly. We ask the children to enter quietly, to be thoughtful and to listen carefully to the teachings and join in/ contribute as appropriate. Children participate in songs and our School Prayer, the Lord's Prayer and sometimes they write their own prayers for assembly.

We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music, lighting a candle, and having the candle and cross as a focal point in the assembly. Every assembly begins with the Liturgy – we say to the children 'May the Lord be with you' and the children respond with 'and also with you'. Children are involved in leading parts of or whole assemblies. They may write prayers to be read out in assemblies. A member of staff, local clergy or other representatives of local religious groups conduct assemblies. Festivals and events of the Church of England calendar are included in our long term plan as well as other celebrations/events as they arise. Our values permeate assemblies. Our Pupil of the Week assembly reflects the achievements and learning of the children and parents are invited to join us. It offers an opportunity to acknowledge and reward children for their achievements both in and out of school. We invite parents/ carers to class assemblies which are performed by every class throughout the year. Assemblies are well attended and this promotes the community spirit of the school. We welcome Governors' attendance at our assemblies at any time.

Our collective worship is:

Biblical: The children learn Bible stories that illustrate the messages we are giving. Bible stories are also chosen to illustrate our 'Values for Life'.

Liturgical: We gather, engage, respond and start all assemblies in the same way. We encourage the children to give thanks in our daily prayer and reflection time.

Symbolic: We provide opportunities for children to use Christian symbols (cross and candle) as a focus for reflection.

Diverse: Our Collective Worship reflects the fact that Christianity is a global religion, through the use of songs and music from other cultures.

Seasonal: We observe the cycle of the Anglican year including celebrations of the major Christian festivals.

Assembly at Norton Free:

	Assembly Focus	Worship through Song	Bible verses to explore and Prayers	Lead
Monday	Whole School Worship Behaviour – what does good behaviour look like? Introduction to the week ahead. Respect and co-operation. How we treat others in school.	School Rules Song Make me a channel of your peace Shine Jesus Shine This little Light of mine Oh Jesus I Have Promised My Jesus, My saviour	"Do unto others as you would have them do unto you" Luke 6:31 Matthew 7:12 School Prayer The Lord's Prayer	Head Teacher
Tuesday	Whole School Worship Sports Assembly - determination and perseverance. Sports Role Models who have faith.	He's got the whole world in his hands What a Friend we have in Jesus Colours of Day Carpenter, carpenter	"Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love Him." <i>James 1:12</i> School Prayer The Lord's Prayer	Head Teacher/ Assistant Head/ Community Visitor
Wednesday	Whole School Worship Our Values focusing on the value for the term and illustrations of this in practice.		Bible stories to illustrate our 'values for life'. Worship Committee Performers. School Prayer The Lord's Prayer	Assistant Head Subject Leads at specific points in the year.
Thursday	Key Stage Worship Key Stage assembly on alternate weeks. Children have a class assembly when they are not in the hall.	KS1 – Jesus Loves Me My god is so big	Varies due to the Key Stage and the subject of the assembly. School Prayer The Lord's Prayer	Head Teacher Teachers
Friday	Whole School Worship Pupil of the Week/ Celebration assembly.	Creator God (Nick&Becky Drake) My Jesus, My Saviour	Prayers written by our children.	Head Teacher/Assistant Head
Special Days and Christian Festivals				
Term 1	Autumn 1 & 2	Harvest Festival service in Church, Remembrance Sunday, St. Andrews Day, Advent, Christingle, Christmas Service in Church		
Term 2	Spring 1 & 2	Epiphany, Candlemas, Lent, St David's Day, Mothering Sunday, Easter Service in Church		
Term 3	Summer 1 & 2	St Georges Day, Ascension Day, Pentecost, Leavers Service in Church		

Right of withdrawal

We expect all children to attend assembly. 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.

The head teacher keeps a record of any children who withdraw from collective worship.

Worship Committee

A group of children from KS2 meet with the Collective Worship coordinator weekly after school. The children have a chance to contribute to displays, planning and drama to help promote the school's Christian values in assemblies.

Monitoring and Review of Collective Worship

Our children are asked to complete an evaluation of our assemblies and they can place the form in a special box which is displayed next to our prayer tree outside the Head Teacher's office (Appendix 1)

Appendix 1

Long Term Plan – Currently under review.

Appendix 2

Monitoring and Review.

How was assembly today?



Did you enjoy assembly today?



What was your favourite part of the assembly?

What were you thinking about in assembly today?