

**NHESC EDUCATION SUPPORT CENTRE  
COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY**

<b>Review Date:</b>	<b>Spring Term: January 2017</b>
<b>Reviewed by:</b>	<b>JVH</b>
<b>Ratified by:</b>	<b>Curriculum and Pastoral Advisory Group</b>
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<b>Frequency of review:</b>	<b>Annual</b>
<b>Date for next review:</b>	<b>Spring Term 2018</b>

**PRINCIPLES:**

NHESC believes that collective worship both supports and strengthens what we aim to do in every aspect of school life. Our caring ethos, the value which we place on the development of the whole student both spiritually, morally, socially, culturally and intellectually is demonstrated in our reverence and reflection and the time that is dedicated to this. We value special time in the school day for the space it gives the students to develop a reflective approach to life and the ability to express these reflections in an appropriate manner. It also develops the feeling of belonging to a community which we see as essential for personal development and spiritual growth.

We recognise that our school community is a collection of people from a variety of cultural and faith, and non-faith backgrounds. Our collective worship caters for a diversity of beliefs and points of view, allowing individuals to respond as individuals. The faith background of both the staff and the student's family is respected at all times.

Our collective worship is offered in a spirit of admiration, celebration and respect to people of excellence, worthy of honour and by extension, to concepts, principles and conduct which are worthy of celebration, as examples of the highest achievements of the human spirit. Our worship draws on literature, music, drama, art and other sources of inspiration. It can provide a focus for thought, inspiration and reflection for pupils (and staff) from a diversity of faiths and backgrounds.

It is a legal requirement that all registered school age pupils take part in an act of worship each day. These acts of worship must be "wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian Character" for the majority of the time. We concentrate on those characteristics of spirituality which are shared by faiths as well as those which are specific to Christianity; for example: 'that all relationships between human beings should be guided by love'.

Collective Worship at NHESC occurs in various forms through tutor time and assemblies in all programmes.

**AIMS:**

Through our collective worship we aim to provide a caring and supportive environment for young people to:

- To become increasingly aware of themselves as individuals and reflect on how they are a part of groups within the school and wider community
- To celebrate special occasions together
- To grow in understanding of the feelings of other people in the daily happenings in school life, the local community and wider world
- To share appreciation of worthwhile activities undertaken by groups within the school
- To recognise and celebrate the diversity of cultures, lifestyles, and religions which exist in our multi-cultural society.
- To deepen the sense of wonder about the world around them
- To feel valued and safe

**PRACTICE:**

At NHESC our acts of worship take place through assembly time and tutor time across all programmes. These are led by staff but at times students may wish to reflect on something with the aid of a member of staff, occasionally there are guest speakers.

The School Student Council meetings give students the opportunity to give ideas and reflect on the community of NHESC, their local community and the international world.

Assembly and tutor time themes encompass religious festivals, known national or international events, and aspects of personal responsibilities.

Students and staff support International, National and Local charities.

Please see additional guidance on assemblies in Appendix 1

**SUCCESS CRITERIA**

At NHESC we evaluate our acts of worship against some of the following:

- Involvement, enjoyment, attention and reaction of students
- Respect and tolerance
- Positive response to shared experience
- A sense of challenge
- An atmosphere which matches the theme
- A contribution to individual and community sense of well-being
- A sense of occasion
- Good order
- A place in the overall plan of the school
- Staff affirmation
- Enrichment of students' experience

## **APPENDIX 1**

### **ADDITIONAL GUIDANCE ON PLANNING TUTOR TIME AND ASSEMBLIES**

We choose from a range of methods, including:

- Pupil's contributions
- Sacred and secular stories/readings
- Prayer/meditation/music
- Artefacts/natural materials
- Visual aids/focal points
- Dialogue/creative silence
- Visitors

#### **MUSIC**

Music is a very powerful means of creating the right atmosphere and unifies and uplifts the school community. Music from a variety of cultures and types is used on occasions.

#### **PRAYER/REFLECTION**

The use of prayer has led to a great deal of debate. We feel that, whilst prayer is a good way of enabling young people to focus their thoughts, students should not be required to say or affirm prayers in which they do not believe. Various forms of introduction to our prayers/reflection can be used to distance young people, whilst giving them the opportunity to participate if they so desire; e.g., 'Let's listen to the words of a well-known Christian prayer...' In this way we are able to use prayers from many different traditions. It is not always necessary to have a prayer and the use of regular moments of silence provides opportunities for some pupils to respond in a personal way if they so wish.

## APPENDIX 2

The following list, originally published in 'School Worship Perspectives, Principles and Practice' by Bill Gent, can be used when undertaking planning over a year or a term.

<p>Achievement and talent Good and Evil Age Guilt and Suffering Aggression and Hate The Arts Harvest and Thankfulness Autumn and Harvest Health Heroes and Heroines Barriers Humour Beginnings Blindness and Sight I believe... Bridges In the news Care and caring Jesus A celebration of talent Journeys Change and decay</p>	<p>Joy and Sorrow Choice and Decision Christmas stories Key People Courage Leaders and Leadership Day and Night Lenten thoughts Desert Island Disc Life and Death Discovery Light and darkness Dreams Love and Hate The Easter Experience The Message Education and learning Mysteries and Puzzles</p>	<p>Exploring the Future  Exploring the Past The Natural World A New School Year Fashion and Trends New Years Resolutions Finding Your Way Food for Thought One World Forgiveness Old and New Freedom and Responsibility Opportunities The Global Village Parents and Children</p>	<p>God and Gods Prayer and Meditation Proverbs and Sayings War and Peace Peace and tranquillity Ways of Seeing A Person who has influenced me Wealth and Riches Pride and Prejudice What's it worth? Why are we here? Rebirth Wonder and Awe Red Letter Days The Word Rewards and Punishments Winter and Spring</p>
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<p>Risk Work and Play Roots The World About Us The Writing on the Wall School and Community School and Tradition Youth and Old Age School Life The Sciences Seeing the Light Special Books Stepping Stones and Stumbling Blocks Strengths and Weaknesses Success and Failure Summing Up Taking Risks Time and Tide Turning Points The Unexpected Us and Them Victory and defeat Voices Voices from the past</p>	<p><b>Autumn Term</b> Start as you mean to go on Succeeding against the Odds Seize the Day Grandparents' Day Heroes Being Organised World Food Day Diwali Sharing Remembrance Positive Thinking Eid Ul Fitr World Aids Day Human Rights Christmas <b>Spring Term</b> New Year's Resolutions Don't judge by appearances Martin Luther King Day Holocaust Memorial Day Being Nervous Friendship and Love Ambition</p>	<p>Fighting Racism Easter Making Mistakes International Women's Day St Patrick's Day  <b>Summer Term</b> The Importance of Community Communication Living in a Democracy Caring for Others Keeping Focused World Environment Day Teamwork Money Independence Dreams, Visions and Premonitions Achievement</p>
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Useful websites for collective worship

<http://www.schoolassemblies.btinternet.co.uk/calendar.htm> - a useful month-by-month calendar of festivals from many different faiths with links to other useful information.

<http://www.assemblies.org.uk> - a great source of ideas for themes and activities for primary and secondary assemblies.

<http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/teachingandlearning/assemblies> - you can search for assemblies by theme, school type or year group.

<http://www.barnabasinschools.org.uk> - themed assemblies with Christian content.

<http://www.teachingideas.co.uk/more/assemblies/contents.htm> - suggestions from teachers on how to deliver creative and imaginative assemblies.

[http://www.natsoc.org.uk/index\\_fsn.html](http://www.natsoc.org.uk/index_fsn.html) - a regularly updated resource with assemblies on a Christian theme from the Culham Institute.

<http://www.reep.org/cw/index.php> - a website containing collective worship resources promoting the links between religion and environment.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/schoolradio/collectiveworship> - homepage of the collective worship resources from BBC radio.

[http://www.primaryideas.co.uk/index\\_files/assemblies.html](http://www.primaryideas.co.uk/index_files/assemblies.html) - scripts for individual year and whole school assemblies.

<http://www.teachingpets.co.uk/Assemblies/Contents.htm> - teaching ideas for primary assemblies.

<http://www.humanism.org.uk/site/cms/contentViewArticle.asp?article=1341> - ideas for inclusive assemblies from the British Humanist Association