**Newbrough Church of England Primary School**

**Collective Worship Policy**

**‘Be courageous; be strong; do everything in love’**

*(Corinthians 16 v:13-14 )*

*These words define who we are as a Church school. They guide us as individuals, and as a team, and helped support us in developing our vision.*

We want to be an inspirational school that delivers excellence in learning by being creative, inclusive, grounded in Christian values and preparing children for life's challenges. To achieve this we will:

* Create a happy, secure, well ordered and caring community through which we will promote effective partnerships with our local families, churches, schools and the wider community
* Develop self-esteem and nurture each child's individual talents to allow everyone to flourish
* Ensure that a high- quality learning environment is maintained, with both indoor and outdoor aspects forming integral parts of school life
* Provide our children with great learning opportunities in all subjects which are broadly based, firmly rooted in the local area and enabled by excellent teaching
* Encourage everyone to take an active part in the life of our local, national and global communities and to encourage responsibility for the environment

**Policy Statement**

At Newbrough Church of England Primary School, we view the daily act of collective worship as an integral and important part of school life.

It is a time where we come together to share our love of God, to reflect and celebrate together. The worship of the school is based on promoting Christian values which permeate the ethos of the school. As such, the contributions of staff, pupils, church clergy and other visitors are valued highly.

We blend Christian teaching and values education in order to create opportunities for children to develop spiritually, morally and socially so that their self -esteem and well-being is sound and supported by ever growing emotional intelligence; leading to an understanding of their rights and responsibilities as young citizens. The systematic introduction of a common values vocabulary allows children to access moral and ethical thought.

**Legal Requirements.**

We acknowledge the legal requirement stated in the 1988 Education Reform Act 6 (1) and 9 (3), which states the need for each child to attend a daily act of worship either as a whole school, class or group. Parents have the right to withdraw their children from the act of worship either partially or wholly. Any parents wishing to do so should contact the Headteacher.

**Planning, Content and Detail.**

We aim to provide a variety of daily worship experiences for the children, each lasting around 20 minutes.

The themes for collective worship might reflect our values focus for the term, the Church calendar, our ethos or current events. Sometimes they reflect issues which may be facing individuals or groups of children eg friendships. Planning is carried out weekly by the collective worship co-ordinator, is based loosely around a four -part structure (gather, engage, respond and send) and will include a reading or story from the Bible. It is unique to our school ie not based on a ‘scheme’.

The lighting of a candle reflects the beginning of our ‘act of worship’ each day.

We aim to include the children in the planning and delivery of our Collective Worship, wherever possible. The contributions made by the children are important and valued and are often used to annotate the planning.

On a Friday, members of the ‘worship committee’ will often prepare an input based on the week’s theme.

Collective worship always includes a time of prayer and/or reflection. A range of prayers are used including the Lord’s Prayer, prayers written by the children and others. They are introduced in an appropriate manner with a short time of quiet.

At the beginning of the lunch hour, grace is said by either an adult or child in each class. Prayers are also said at the end of the school day.

**Other Faiths.**

Worship reflects our Christian beliefs and values but we are also committed to respecting each other’s faith, stance and culture, showing tolerance and understanding regardless of pupil’s beliefs.

**Record Keeping, Evaluation and Monitoring.**

Annotated weekly worship plans are filed.

Training is encouraged and available for those who wish to lead acts of worship.

Collective worship is also monitored by a member of the Governing Body. Our Link Governor for Collective Worship is Reverend Thompson.

**Visits and Visitors.**

Visitors to the school are welcomed and enabled to share their experiences and knowledge – their role is to educate, not to evangelise. Whole school acts of worship take place in St Aidan’s church at least once per term.

Reverend Thompson leads a worship assembly in school every fortnight.

On alternate Thursdays, the ‘Open the book’ group, led by members of the local congregation of churches, visits school.

God’s Tent (mobile prayer space) visits our school every half term.

**Equal Opportunities**

All pupils in KS1 and above, regardless of academic ability, age gender and ethnic origin will have access to daily acts of collective worship.

For our Nursery and Reception children, informal daily opportunities are provided to experience and discuss the wonder of God’s creation. As the children grow in confidence and maturity, they join the rest of the school community in the more formal daily worship sessions.

**Signed:**