



## **Collective Worship Policy**

**issued by the Governors of Milton Mount Primary School**



**Effective from: March 2018**

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**Signed by: Lesley King**

**Next review date: March 2020**

The Collective Worship Policy reflects the UN Convention on The Rights of the Child (CRC) by supporting:

**UNCRC Article 14:** Every child has the right to think and believe what they want and also to practise their religion, as long as they are not stopping other people from enjoying their rights. Governments must respect the rights of parents to give the children guidance about this right

### **Aims and purpose**

The aims and purpose of collective worship are:

- to encourage pupils to develop an awareness of the universal moral principles of right and wrong, justice and fairness and a proper concern for the fate of others and the world;
- to affirm and celebrate the values and ethos of the school;
- to add to the pupils' development an awareness of, and a sense of belonging to, the many different dimensions of the school's community;
- to experience the sense of gathering for a special purpose;
- to share an experience that promotes thought and reflection;
- to promote pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development;
- to actively promote and reinforce the British Values;
- to consider and reflect upon a variety of situations and issues and make a personal response;
- to reflect quietly and make an internal response in the light of personal beliefs and background; this may include worship of God within each participant's own faith and understanding.

### **Collective worship**

We understand worship to be a special act or occasion whose purpose is to bring people together in a moment of joint reflection and mutual understanding. Where the children wish to do so, it is also a chance to show reverence to God and their own individual beliefs. Collective worship involves members of the school coming together and participating in an assembly. We expect everyone to take an active part in the assembly.

In line with the School Standards and Framework Act 1998, which states that collective worship should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character', we normally base our assemblies on a variety of values and morals which are in line with the teachings of the Christian Church but also reflect the values of other religions. These assemblies are always conducted in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs of all members of the school.

While the majority of acts of worship in our school are Christian, we also hold assemblies that reflect 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. This forms part of each day's assembly, which is normally divided into Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 and a separate Key Stage 2 assembly. Initially, children in the Early Years classes have daily assemblies with their class or year group. Once the children have settled into school life they join the Key Stage 1 assembly.

We conduct assemblies in a dignified and respectful way. We tell children that assembly time is a period of 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 songs. We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music and props that act as a focal point for the attention of the children where appropriate.

A member of the Headship Team or a member of the teaching staff normally conduct assemblies, but sometimes local clergy or other representatives of local religious groups conduct them instead. Occasionally we also have visiting speakers. These are carefully chosen and invited in to support the development of the whole child, with a focus on charity and community.

We take the themes of our assemblies from the traditions of the Christian faith and we often reflect the festivals and events of the Christian calendar. Sometimes the themes of our assemblies reflect and build on topics that we teach as part of the school curriculum. As a Rights Respecting School we often reflect on the 'Universal Rights of the Child' in accordance with the United Nations Convention. We plan our assemblies as part of a series of themes linked to core values and our school's Golden Rights. These themes extend into other areas of the curriculum including circle time, PSHCE, British Values and Religious Education.

Our assemblies reflect the achievements and learning of the children. We encourage the children to participate in assemblies by showing their work to the other children and raising issues that they have discussed in their classes. Assemblies offer an opportunity to acknowledge and reward children for their achievements both in and out of school. They play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school, which is that all children are valued and all achievements are recognised.

On occasions, we invite parents to assemblies and we encourage them to attend as this promotes the community spirit of the school and is a practical demonstration of the way the home and the school work together to support the achievements of our children.

We welcome governors' attendance at our assemblies.

### **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 Headteacher keeps a record of all children who withdraw from collective worship.

During the updating of this policy, Safeguarding was taken account of.

Approved by the Governing Body

Signed (Chair of Governors) \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ March 2018 \_\_\_\_\_

Review Date \_\_\_\_\_ March 2020 \_\_\_\_\_