

Meltham CE (C) School

Collective Worship Policy



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1.0 Aims

The aims of this policy are:

- To create a high quality and consistent approach to collective worship throughout the school; and
- To define how the school fulfils its statutory duties regarding collective worship.

2.0 Roles and Responsibilities

2.1 The Governing Body

Governors have overall responsibility for the quality of Collective Worship and its provision in the school.

2.2 Senior Leadership Team

The SLT has responsibility to ensure the Collective Worship policy is implemented consistently within the school through observation and attendance at worship, through pupil-led observation and through discussion. The SLT also monitors and evaluates the impact of Collective Worship on the quality of learning and ensures it promotes the school's Core Christian Values (see Appendix A).

2.3 Subject Leader

The role of the Collective Worship leader is:

- To plan Collective Worship at the end of each term in readiness for the following term;
- To adapt the plan in response to local, national or world events;
- To liaise with the clergy of Meltham and other suitable contributors in order to ensure that the provision of collective worship remains broad and varied;

- To keep up-to-date with publications and developments in Collective Worship; and
- To support teachers, clergy and outside speakers with themed resources including resources for Collective Worship should they be required.

2.4 The Role of the Classroom Teacher

Classroom teachers have responsibility for:

- Implementing the collective worship as distributed by the subject leader;
- Ensuring high standards of learning are delivered through Collective Worship;
- Ensuring all faiths and groups are treated with dignity and tact within the framework for collective worship; and
- Ensuring Collective Worship is accessible to all pupils, including facilitating child involvement through drama, speaking, prayer and joint leadership of sessions.

3.0 Policy

3.1 The Aims of Collective Worship

Collective Worship in school is designed to be of a mainly Christian character (in accordance with the 1988 Education Reform Act) and is therefore aims to be inclusive in its application, enabling all to take part. Our policy allows pupils the opportunity to explore and share beliefs; consider the importance of prayer, meditation and silence; consider the relevance of different ideals and beliefs; think about the needs of others; develop a sense of community; and appreciate the importance of world religious beliefs and those who hold them. Collective Worship offers the opportunity to re-affirm, interpret and put into practice the values of the school and may also provide an opportunity to celebrate pupils' achievements.

Our aims concerning prayer and reflection are:

- to provide an opportunity for pupils to experience worship of God;
- to foster feelings such as awe, wonder, thankfulness, mystery and joy;
- to offer memorable and enjoyable experiences;
- to respond to music, poetry, art, literature and stories in a variety of ways;
- to explore a sense of the sacred; and
- to enable pupils to experience the vocabulary of prayer.

Our aims concerning personal development are:

- to help pupils consider their place in the world;
- to nurture spiritual development through experiencing worship;
- to heighten awareness of 'ultimate questions' and provide opportunities to reflect upon them;
- to support the search for meaning;
- to enable the effective use of silence when reflecting, contemplating or during prayer;
- to enable pupils to experience the vocabulary and the ritual of worship; and
- to promote the school's Core Christian Values as listed in Appendix 4.1 .

Our aims concerning community are:

- to depict the school as a familial and inclusive community, including the local churches;
- to promote the feeling of community through a sharing of experiences and feelings;
- to develop personal relationships and to encourage social and moral development;
- to provide an opportunity to empathise with the needs of others;
- to encourage both respect and care, and nurture positive attitudes to local and global issues;
- to provide an opportunity to celebrate Christian festivals;
- to enable pupils to appreciate their worth and value in the community;
- to celebrate gifts, talents and achievements; and
- to help establish and reinforce the shared values of the school community.

3.2 Organisation of Collective Worship

Our Collective Worship takes a variety of forms:

Monday:

Collective Worship is based on the term's theme or on the Core Christian Values; it is led by a member of staff, the children (under the guidance of staff) or a minister of religion. Collective Worship is split by Key Stage so the message can be differentiated appropriately: Bible verse, prayer and reflection are all incorporated. When worship is led by the Clergy, it will be for the whole school.

Tuesday:

KS2 Prayer and Praise (hymns, prayers and reflections) are led by the Deputy Headteacher and a second member of staff.

Wednesday:

Worship is led by members of the SLT and the wider teaching staff. It encourages participation with children and addresses the Core Christian Values, considered key Christian festivals and utilises Bible stories. In addition, wider faith festivals are also presented and parallels are drawn with the Christian faith.

Thursday:

Afternoon class assemblies and worships are led by each class in turn and are attended by the whole school in celebration.

Friday:

KS1 Prayer and Praise (hymns, prayers and reflections) are led by the Deputy Headteacher and a teacher responsible for music. A Class assembly and worship is repeated for parents. In addition, the whole school celebrates achievements in the end of week 'Celebrations' assembly. It incorporates prayer and praise; peers and staff nominate children for their achievements in behaviour and work.

In class collective worship follows our assemblies and includes Bible stories connected to our Core Christian Values and end of day prayers.

3.3 Term Themes

The overall themes for each term follow the school's six Core Christian Values and the PSHE strands: Health and Wellbeing, Relationships and Living in the wider world (Appendix A). The plan may change in response to local, national or world events and will encompass important dates in the Christian calendar. Collective Worship may take place in church - for the celebration of some festivals - and for additional acts of worship when appropriate. Once a theme is chosen, a timetable is compiled for each term – this includes dates, the breakdown of the theme and a staff and visitor rota.

The Collective Worship coordinator allocates staff with a copy of the timetable and the Collective Worship planning resources from the 'Teachers' Dozen' scheme. Staff are asked, if deviating from the scheme, to maintain the learning focus of the assembly allocated and to focus on that term's Core Christian Value.

Verbal feedback on the day's Collective Worship is given by members of the Leadership Group to staff and to the Collective Worship Co-ordinator; children are involved in evaluating collective worship each week through the use of questioning. Every effort is made to involve visitors from charitable organisations, other denominations and the wider community, especially local churches.

3.4 Special Educational Needs

Staff recognise the need to make Collective Worship accessible to all and use a variety of learning styles in leading Worship.

3.5 Equal Access and Outcome

It is a legal requirement that every child will participate in a Daily Act of Collective Worship. It is the right of parents to request that their children be withdrawn from religious assemblies if they are of a different faith. Parents wishing to exercise this right are requested to do so in writing to the Headteacher. Appropriate arrangements for the supervision of pupils will be made in consultation with the Headteacher, teachers, Governors and the parents.

4.0 Appendices

4.1 Appendix A: Term Themes & Meltham CE Core Christian Values

Appendix A: Term Themes and Meltham CE Core Christian Values

Half-termly themes are not specifically Christian in their make-up, more humanistic in description and delivery, however, the 'Teachers' Dozen' scheme links biblical lessons and Bible stories to these PSHE themes in accordance with this Collective Worship policy ensuring a specifically Christian content.

The Core Values are rotated through a two year cycle in the order detailed below; a whole term is dedicated to each of these values and assemblies overlap with the 'Teachers' Dozen' worship and the SEAL themes.

Termly themes (PSHE)

- Health and wellbeing
- Relationships
- Living in the wider world

Core Christian Values (2 year termly cycle)

- Friendship
- Forgiveness
- Courage
- Thankfulness
- Compassion
- Hope