



Monks Orchard Primary School - Collective Worship Policy

Agreed: October 2016

To be reviewed: October 2019

Legal requirements

All schools must provide a daily act of collective worship for all pupils. The aim of collective worship is to develop pupils socially, morally, spiritually and culturally. The 1994 legal framework documentation regarding collective worship still stands. Added to this is the recent requirement to promote British values as part of SMSC (Ofsted, September 2014, DfE, November 2014).

Aims

To:

- fulfil the statutory requirement for a daily act of collective worship.
- provide a variety of opportunities for pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.
- reflect on and understand elements of life which are of value and worth.
- provide opportunities for pupils to interact with each other, staff and other members of the community.
- provide opportunities for expressing shared experiences and interests and for celebrating special occasions.
- provide an inclusive opportunity to build and reinforce British and community values.

Definition

At Monks Orchard Primary School, collective worship is a time for pupils to come together to be reflective and thoughtful. It aims to provide experiences which deepen the inner senses, engender feelings of self-worth and of the uniqueness of the individual. Collective worship aims to offer children a sense of purpose and meaning in life, a sense of awe and wonder in the natural world, reverence and respect for the beliefs of others and a sense of belonging to the community.

Organisation

Each year a calendar of weekly themes for collective worship will be created by the staff team to cover a range of school and community values, significant community and world events, religious festivals and national and world awareness events (eg. Black History Month, International Women's Day). Where appropriate, time will also be given to topical and spontaneous themes (for example, exploring current affairs and responding to events in the life of the school).

Collective worship will follow these themes and will be delivered through 3 assemblies each week, as follows:

Monday	Weekly Theme Assembly (KS1 and KS2)
Wednesday	Class Assembly (KS1 and KS2)
Friday	Celebration Assembly

On days when there is no assembly scheduled, collective worship will be delivered through a session of thought and reflection within the classroom. These will generally follow the weekly themes but may differ, depending on the needs of the class.

Children in EYFS do not regularly attend assemblies unless it is special occasion. Reception children are introduced to regular assemblies during the second half of the summer term as part of the transition to Year 1 programme

Visitors

Pupils gain a great deal from the participation of visitors during collective worship. These may include representatives of various religions, charities and cultural organisations, parents, artists and other members of the local community. All visitors will agree the content and tone of their input with the member of staff organising the visit before the act of collective worship. All staff and visitors who participate in acts of worship are reminded that while it is not always possible, or appropriate, to avoid controversial issues, acts of worship should not be used for proselytising or promoting a particular set of beliefs.

Right of withdrawal

Every effort is made to show sensitivity towards personal faith and to include all staff and children in collective worship. Parents and carers have the right to withdraw their children from collective worship if they wish. No reason for the withdrawal needs to be given. Staff also have the right to withdraw from collective worship and should discuss this with the headteacher.

Equal opportunities

We offer equality of educational opportunity to all pupils and seek to develop their interests, abilities, skills and gifts. All children at Monks Orchard are entitled to participate, and feel included, in collective worship regardless of gender, sexual identity, race, special needs, faith or culture. As collective worship at Monks Orchard is conducted within an educational context, any attempt to persuade participants to adopt a particular religious, or other, set of beliefs is inappropriate.