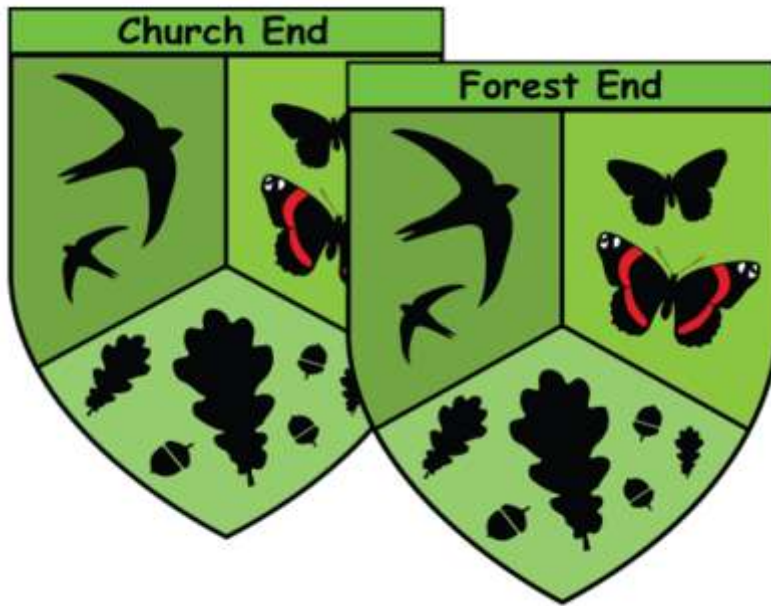


MARSTON MORETEYNE VC SCHOOL



Collective Worship Policy

June 2023



Our Christian Vision:

At Marston Moreteyne VC School, we believe that Collective Worship and our daily Christian ethos has a vital part to play in the education of our children. The delivery of which creates a loving Christian community, a climate of dignity, respect, safety and support, a place of hope, wisdom, calm, purpose and high aspiration for all to flourish.

We believe the knowledge and personal values Collective Worship can nurture in our children - thoughtfulness, honesty, respect for difference, moral principles, independence, and self-respect is of paramount importance.

The purpose of Collective Worship:

We believe that providing pupils with the opportunity for quiet reflection and consideration of themselves and others in a spiritual context is part of a holistic approach to education, which the school strongly promotes and endorses. Collective worship provides a unique opportunity for our children to identify with the school as a whole, sharing in individual and group successes and achievements. The school coming together fosters a collective responsibility towards each other and promotes a strong sense of belonging to the school community. Through a variety of approaches an awareness of local community and national identity will be developed.

The school recognises the importance and positive impact of multiculturalism in the United Kingdom. The school promotes tolerance and understanding, recognising the social diversity within our local and wider community.

Legal Requirements

The 1988 Education Reform Act requires all maintained schools in England and Wales to comply with a daily act of collective worship for all pupils. This act of worship should be 'broadly and mainly Christian' in nature. However, parents maintain the right to withdraw their children from the daily act upon written request to the Headteacher. In such circumstances children will be supervised and provided with a quiet activity for the duration of the assembly.

To provide pupils with variety in their experience of worship, acts of worship may take the form of a whole school act of worship for all pupils or separate acts of worship for pupils in different age groups or school groups.

Collective Worship may be held at any time during the school day. The responsibility for arranging school worship in our school rests with the Headteacher. All acts of worship are in accordance with the guidance issued in circular 1/94 (DfE Religious Education and Collective Worship 1/94 31 January 1994) which states that worship should be of a 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character' and not distinctive of any particular Christian denomination.

By 'broadly Christian' in this school we mean that: -

- Worship contains some elements that accord special status to Jesus, his teachings and actions, e.g. The Sermon on the Mount.
- Sharing with students the Christian belief that all Christians are called to continue Jesus' work of love and compassion for their fellow human beings through the exploration of key Christian concepts such as love, trust, forgiveness, mercy, humility, courage and integrity, respect for life, value of an individual, justice, co-operation and service, honesty and truthfulness.

Acts of Collective Worship at MMVC School take into account the children's ages, aptitudes and family backgrounds. The school recognises that there is a difference between Acts of Collective Worship and the assembly of students. On some occasions assembly may proceed or follow an Act of Collective Worship. When this happens, the transition from Assembly to worship will be marked in some suitable way e.g. the lighting of a candle or reflecting on an image on the screen/whiteboard, moment of silences and reflection etc.

In November 2014, The Department for Education published guidance on promoting British values in schools to ensure young people leave school prepared for life in modern Britain.

The guidance aims to help both independent and state-maintained schools understand their responsibilities in this area. All have a duty to 'actively promote' the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs. These values were first set out by the government in the 'Prevent' strategy in 2011. The changes were designed to tighten up the standards on pupil welfare to improve safeguarding, and the standards on spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils to strengthen the barriers to extremism.

"A key part of our plan for education is to ensure children become valuable and fully rounded members of society who treat others with respect and tolerance, regardless of background. We want every school to promote the basic British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance for those of different faiths and beliefs.

This ensures young people understand the importance of respect and leave school fully prepared for life in modern Britain."

Lord Nash

Collective Worship Intent:

During our Collective Worship we aim to ...

- ❖ Foster a sense of belonging and community by bringing together staff and children
- ❖ Promote and develop a sense of common values and morality
- ❖ Encourage the children to think, reflect and consider their approach to life
- ❖ Raise self-esteem of all pupils by reminding them of their uniqueness
- ❖ Empower the children by valuing their achievement and encourage them to achieve more
- ❖ Create an atmosphere that is conducive to reflection and worship
- ❖ Show sensitivity, tolerance, respect and understanding of different faiths
- ❖ Promote a sense of awe and wonder through exploration of creation and mystery

In order to meet the statutory requirement and make our gatherings a meaningful and valuable experience for our children the following should take place...

- ❖ A daily act of collective worship for all children (Please refer to definitions)
- ❖ Worship should promote our core and specific school values
- ❖ Worship must be engaging and age appropriate
- ❖ Children will have opportunity to respond by expressing their views in variety of different ways including... music, song, drama and so on ... as individuals, in groups and as a class
- ❖ Village and local religious leaders will have opportunity to lead school gatherings

Collective Worship Implementation:

Normal Weekly Pattern of Collective Worship - at both school sites

Monday, Wednesday and Friday whole phase assemblies will normally take place at 10.15a.m. (EYFS/Year1) and at 15.00 (Y2,3 &4). This may vary according to Headteacher commitments or in order to accommodate the needs of visitors or other aspects impacting the school. Once a month we hold a special 'Values' Time to Celebrate.

	Focus	Lead By
Monday	Time to Sing and Reflection	HT/ DHT/AHT Some staff to attend
Tuesday	Time to Talk Classroom Assembly	Class teacher
Wednesday	Time to Wonder	HT/ DHT/AHT/CT Some staff to attend
Thursday	Time to Listen Year group	Class teachers
Friday	Time to Celebrate	HT/ DHT/AHT All Staff to attend

Time to Sing and Reflect

This provides children and staff with the opportunity to learn and reflect upon the words of traditional and contemporary children's songs and hymns.

A core of songs has been established which the children identify with and sing with confidence. Songs are chosen to reflect worship themes, seasons and religious festivals.

Time to Wonder

Children should be given the opportunity to identify as a whole school community. Thematic Whole Phase gatherings will be centred on moral or value based secular or religious stories, reflecting the culture and tradition of our local, regional, national and global community.

Time to Listen

Year group gatherings will usually follow a theme or religious story based on Biblical or other religious traditions. It is normal practice for all children within the Year group to attend - sometimes contributing significantly to the leadership of the assembly.

Time to Talk

These occur once each week and take place in the classroom. Although often story based they also provide children with the opportunity to speak to their class group thus gaining confidence.

Time to Celebrate

This usually takes place each Friday and includes recognition of each child's birthday, weekly attendance and children who have been commended by their teachers. This gathering again reinforces the whole school community concept encouraging the children to celebrate one another's successes and achievements. Once a month this gathering follows the theme of the 'Value of the Month'

On occasion parents are invited to special gatherings and events such as Harvest, Christmas, and Easter as appropriate. As well as religious leaders, representatives from charity organisations are also invited to lead and take part in our worship.

Impact of Collective Worship:

Assembly Themes and Resources

Often themes will be chosen by SLT, which cover an individual gathering, a week or a series of gatherings. Themes are often selected to address specific school issues, as a reinforcement of PSHE policies or to help embed a 'values based', positive whole school ethos. The school recognises the importance of various religious festivals in modern multi-cultural Britain and this is reflected in celebration of many of those festivals during our collective worship time. Stories from the Christian tradition, as well as other major world faiths such as Judaism, Islam and Hinduism are incorporated into worship themes.

In all acts of collective worship children are given time to reflect, think and consider their response to the message given. Children are encouraged to think about themselves, others and their response to relationships. A sense of awe and wonder is sought as children consider the world in which they live and their responsibility towards the issues raised, and towards one another.

As with all planning the school encourages flexibility to respond to local, national and global issues as appropriate.

Special Needs and Equal Opportunities

The school embraces an inclusive policy and as such welcomes all children into our school community regardless of need, creed or ethnicity. Special consideration will be given to SEND children according to their need whether temporary or longer term. For further clarification please refer to the school's Equal Opportunities and Special Needs Policies.

Record Keeping

A brief record of Collective Worship is kept. Responsibility for whole school assembly remains with the Headteacher. Key Stage Assemblies are prepared collectively with Key Stage Co-ordinators/SLT being responsible for recording assembly content and preparing duty rotas. Class teachers are responsible for Classroom Assemblies and this should be evident in their normal weekly planning.

Agreed Time Allocations

This recommends 15 minutes collective daily worship.

Resources

- A catalogue of Collective Worship resources available to all staff will be maintained by the RE/PSHE Co-ordinator/s. These resources can support both planning and delivering.
- We encourage involvement from people both within school and within the local community who can share their knowledge and experience of different faiths and traditions.

Withdrawal:

Whilst parents can choose to withdraw their pupils from Collective Worship we encourage all parents to reflect on the SMSC developmental opportunities offered within this time and as detailed above. Parents wishing to exercise the right for removal from Collective Worship should inform the Headteacher in writing. The Headteacher will discuss their request with them

June 2023