

Policy on Collective Worship

MUGGINTON CofE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Reviewed	<i>4th December 2017</i>
HT	J Green
CoG	D Walton
Future Review	<i>Autumn 2018</i>

Mugginton CofE Primary School

Collective Worship Policy

This policy has been written in accordance with the Christian ethos of our school, our recognition of British values, an awareness of our position in the Global community and taking account of all current Safeguarding and Child Protection guidance

1. Aims and purpose

The aims and purpose of collective worship are:

- to provide an opportunity for the children to worship God;
- to learn more about and reflect upon the life and teachings of Jesus Christ;
- to enable children to consider spiritual and moral issues;
- to enable children to explore their own beliefs;
- to encourage participation and response;
- to develop in children a sense of community spirit;
- to promote a common ethos with shared values and to reinforce positive attitudes;
- to teach children how to worship.

2. Collective worship

We understand worship to be a special act or occasion whose purpose is to show reverence to God. Collective worship involves all 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 1988 Education Reform Act, which states that collective worship should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character', we normally base our assemblies on the teachings of Christ and traditions of the Christian Church. However, we conduct our assemblies 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.

3. Organisation of collective worship

We hold a daily act of collective worship in our school. This forms part of each morning assembly, which is normally a whole-school 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 hymns. We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music and candles or other objects that act as a focal point for the attention of the children.

Members of staff normally conduct assemblies, but sometimes the local vicar/curate or other representatives of local religious groups conduct them instead.

We aim to offer the children an opportunity to lead Collective worship at least once per half-term via the "Collective Worship Crew" (CWC).

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. We plan our assemblies as part of a series of themes well in advance of the day they take place. We also have a global-themed assembly each week.

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 schools. They play

an important part in promoting the ethos of the school, which is that all children are valued and all achievements are recognised.

We invite parents to special assemblies such as the harvest festival, 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 our children. These special assemblies are usually held in church and are usually led by the children. We also have special services in church at the end of each ½ term which are also led by the children.

We welcome Governors' attendance at our assemblies at any time.

4. 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.

5. Monitoring and review

It is the role of a named school Governor, usually the vicar, who has responsibility for religious education and collective worship to monitor the policy and practice of collective worship. The Governor concerned liaises with the Headteacher before reporting to the Governors on religious education and collective worship.