

Monks Orchard Primary School
Collective Worship Policy
“Growing and Learning Together”

Mission Statement

Our aim is to provide a happy and stable school environment. All children will be given full access to the National Curriculum. This will enable them, regardless of their abilities, gender, ethnic or social background, to reach the highest standards by realising their potential and developing talents and strengthening weaknesses in all areas.

Statutory Duty

The Education Reform Act of 1988 sets out the law regarding collective worship. The law states that collective worship in school should aim to:

- Provide the opportunity to worship God
- Consider spiritual and moral issues and to explore their own beliefs
- Encourage participation and response, whether through active involvement in the presentation of the worship or through listening to and joining in the worship offered
- Develop a community spirit, promote a common ethos and shared values, and reinforce positive attitudes

Introduction

This policy is a statement of the aims, principles and strategies for the delivery of collective worship at Monks Orchard School. It was written by Ellen Crowfoot in consultation with Margaret Misson. The policy was submitted for the approval of the governing body in June 2012 and will be reviewed in September 2014.

Aims and Purposes

At Monks Orchard Primary, we aim to:

- Fulfill the statutory requirements of a daily active act of worship for all pupils
- Provide a variety of opportunities for the pupil's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development
- Reflect on and understand elements of life which are of value and worth
- Provide opportunities in which pupils interact with others, staff and on occasion's members of the wider community
- Provide opportunities for expressing shared experiences and interests and for celebrating special occasions together
- Provide an all inclusive opportunity to build and reinforce community values

Definition

Collective worship is a time for the pupils of Monks Orchard Primary School to be reflective and thoughtful. It aims to provide experiences which deepen the inner senses and engender feelings of self worth and uniqueness of the individual. Collective worship gives children a purpose and meaning to life, awe and wonder of the natural world, reverence and respect and a sense of belonging to the community. It is the responsibility of the Headteacher in consultation with the governing body.

Organisation of Collective Worship

At Monks Orchard Primary School collective worship is adhered to every day as follows:

| | |
|-----------|--|
| Monday | 9.05 - 9.30 Junior assembly 10.25 - 10.45 Infant assembly |
| Tuesday | 9.05 - 9.30 Junior assembly 10.25 - 10.45 Infant music assembly |
| Wednesday | 9.05 - 9.30 Junior music assembly 10.25 - 10.45 Infant assembly |
| Thursday | Classroom based act of worship |
| Friday | Classroom based act of worship |

Collective worship will normally take place during assembly which is held in the school hall. Assemblies usually last for 25 minutes and are conducted in a dignified and respectful manner. At Monks Orchard we regard assembly as a time of reflection, a calm time when the children are expected to listen carefully and behave in an appropriate manner. Our assemblies cover a range of themes and are delivered in a variety of ways. They may be teacher led or class led where the children are encouraged to participate. Golden assemblies are held regularly and they reflect the achievements and the learning of the children. Assemblies are delivered by the Headteacher, Deputy Head and other members of staff. On occasions assemblies are delivered by visitors to the school. Assemblies are planned around broad themes, cultural festivals, moral dilemmas, major religions and the Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning (SEALS). The children in the Foundation Stage (Nursery and Reception) do not regularly attend assemblies unless it is a special occasion. They are introduced to regular assemblies in the second half of the summer term as part of the transition to Year 1 programme.

When it is not possible for the whole school to assemble for collective worship it is possible for it to take place within the classroom. It can be held for a shorter time than a key stage assembly, between 5 and 10 minutes. It should follow the themes that run throughout the year and reflect the needs and issues of the class. It can be delivered in a variety of ways including:

- Stories
- Music
- Artefacts
- Video clips
- Focal points e.g. a picture or candle
- Visitors

Pupils should be encouraged to participate in a meaningful way:

- Acting out a story
- Miming to a story
- Reading
- Being encouraged to ask and answer questions
- Writing poems or prayers
- Hot seating
- Reading from a sacred book
- Thought of the day/week

During collective worship whether in assembly or class based there must be a time for silent prayer/reflection in order for it to comply with legal requirement. Pupils must be allowed to respond in ways that are appropriate to them.

Contributions of collective worship to the spiritual moral social and cultural development of pupils.

Collective worship can have a positive impact on the children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

Social Development opportunities:

- Guided reflection
- A variety of beliefs, values, and feelings are considered.
- Appreciation of aspects of life which have special meanings and which contribute to a sense of awe and wonder
- Celebration of special achievements

Moral Development opportunities:

- Consideration of moral codes found in school, in religions and in society
- Consideration of relationships
- Encouraging empathy by the consideration of moral issues from different perspectives.

Cultural Development opportunities:

- Using music, art, drama, story and artefacts from a range of cultural backgrounds
- Exploring and celebrating aspects of religion and culture

Social Development opportunities:

- Bringing visitors into school from the local community
- Sharing values and matters of concern
- Coming together as a class or key stage group

Right to withdrawal

Every effort is made to show sensitivity towards personal faith and to include all children and staff in collective worship. Parents have the right to withdraw their children from collective worship if they wish but only on the grounds of religious conscience. Children may only be withdrawn from the collective worship part of an assembly; not the assembly in its entirety. Teachers also have the right to withdraw from collective worship again only on the grounds of religious conscience and not on the grounds of needing more free time!

Equal Opportunities

We offer equality of educational opportunity to all pupils, and seek to develop their interests, abilities, skills and gifts. Race and gender are not stereotyped. All children at Monks Orchard are entitled to participate in collective worship regardless of gender, race, special needs or culture.