

MILFORD PRIMARY SCHOOL

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY



Vision Statement

'Milford Primary is a community orientated school, centred around the children as individuals. We are committed to helping children work towards their potential as life long learners who care, share, respect and learn in a stimulating environment.'

Summer 2015

1. Aims

The aims and purpose of collective worship are:

- To provide an opportunity for the children to worship God;
- 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;
- To develop the 'Care', 'Share' and 'Respect' aspects of the school Vision Statement.

2. Collective Worship

2.1 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 assembly.

2.2 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.

2.3 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

3.1 We hold regular acts of collective worship in our school. This normally forms part of whole school assemblies, although we also hold separate infant and junior assemblies on occasions.

3.2 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 listen carefully to the teachings and participate fully in prayer and hymns. We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music and occasionally other objects that act as a focal point for the attention of the children.

3.3 In addition to assemblies conducted by staff, we also have visitors who come into school and speak to the children. These visitors may be members of the clergy or representatives of local religious groups. KS1 children regularly visit Milford Baptist Church for 'Open the Book' where they listen to stories and take part in prayers.

3.4 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.

3.5 During these assemblies we also celebrate 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. Milford Primary School is a successful school and we shall celebrate the successes of all the children in assemblies.

3.6 We invite parents to class assemblies, as this promotes the community spirit of the school and is a practical demonstration of the way the home and school work together to support the achievements of our children.

3.7 We welcome governors' attendance at our assemblies at any time.

4. Right of Withdrawal

4.1 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. We would ask parents to provide an activity for their child to complete during this time.

4.2 The headteacher keeps a record of all children who withdraw from collective worship.

5. Monitoring and Review

The policy will be reviewed on an annual basis by the Curriculum Committee.

Date April 2015

Signed (Chair of Governors)

Date for review Summer 2018