

MILFORD PRIMARY SCHOOL

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY



Vision Statement

Milford Primary School sits at the heart of the community, where all involved strive for excellence. Each child is supported in their learning journey and the fulfilment of individual potential.

Care, share, respect and learn

July 2021

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

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 broadly Christian worship in our school. This normally forms part of whole school assemblies or can be class based which will be an extension of the story read in assemblies. 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. 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 or reflect festivals from other faiths and cultures such as Diwali or Chinese New Year. We plan our assemblies as part of a series of themes well in advance of the day they take place.

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

4. Right of Withdrawal

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

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

5. Monitoring and Review

The policy will be reviewed every three years or to reflect changes in policy and practice.

Review July 2024