



Melcombe Primary School Collective Worship Policy

Reviewed by: Danielle Scerri & Carol Campbell

Date adopted: 09/12/19

Signed D. Charman.....

Date 9/12/19.....

Dennis Charman
Chair of the Governing Board

Date for Review: 09/12/21

Introduction: Statutory Duty of School

It is a legal requirement that all maintained schools provide daily collective worship for registered pupils (apart from those who have been withdrawn by their parents). This is usually provided within a daily assembly.

The head teacher is responsible (under the School Standards and Framework Act 1998) for arranging the daily collective worship after consulting with the governing body. Daily collective worship must be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character. The precise nature will depend on the family background, ages and abilities of the pupils.

However, if it is inappropriate for some or all of the pupils to take part in Christian collective worship, the head teacher may apply to the local Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) for a determination to have this requirement lifted.

Melcombe Primary School Collective Worship Statement

Collective worship at Melcombe seeks to meet the following criteria:

- It creates an experience, which promotes thought and reflection.
- It provides an opportunity for reflection on and response to the spiritual dimension of children's experiences in the school curriculum.
- It fosters a sense of community.

Aims of Collective Worship

- To reflect on religious values, that are broadly of a Christian nature and children's own beliefs.
- To consider spiritual and moral issues.
- To develop a community spirit, a common ethos and shared values.

Collective Worship at Melcombe

We see Collective Worship as an opportunity for the children to develop their spiritual and moral awareness. We want the children to develop their personal beliefs and be able to appreciate that people have individual and shared beliefs, on which they base their lives.

We also, through our assemblies and PSHE, want to develop the children's understanding of how beliefs contribute to personal identity.

Collective worship at Melcombe offers children the following opportunities:

- To explore and share beliefs
- To consider the relevance of ideas and beliefs in their own lives
- To consider the value of reflection and silence
- To think about the needs of others and develop a sense of community
- To appreciate that people have different religious beliefs and be ready to respect those beliefs, even if they are different from their own.

Collective Worship also offers an opportunity for staff and children to reaffirm interpret and put into practice the values of our school. It also provides a time to celebrate the various achievements of the community that are held to be of worth.

We are proud of the cultural diversity of our school and seek to celebrate it at every opportunity. In a school like ours where over 40% of the children come from very different religious backgrounds, it is important we recognise and value their religions and understand the ways in which they worship.

We firmly believe that all the children should have a sense of pride in who they are and have a sense of belonging to the school. That is why we celebrate the major religious festivals throughout the year.

Planning and Delivery

The Deputy Head teacher plans the collective worship programme for each half term, which is often linked to the PSHE units of work. The programme is delivered by members of the Senior Leadership Team and teaching staff on a rota basis.

The SLT have tried to ensure that assemblies cater for all children's learning styles and try to combine visual, auditory and kinaesthetic approaches. Since having access to interactive whiteboards in assembly, this has been easier to achieve.

We try to ensure that there is a balance between music, stories, discussions, presentations and drama and seek to actively involve the children. Children have an opportunity to reflect on and comment on the spiritual or moral message in the assembly.

Where possible, the member of staff leading the assembly will make direct links on how what the children have learnt or discovered in the assembly can be applied directly in their life, both at school and at home.

Implementation

Collective worship takes place as follows:

- Monday: Celebration Assemblies are split into Early Years and Key Stage 1; Lower Key Stage 2 and Upper Key Stage 2 and are led by the Head, Deputy and an Assistant Head.
- Tuesday: Music assembly for Lower Phases. Tuesday assemblies provide children with the opportunities to share their current learning and celebrate their successes. There is a class assembly for upper school.
- Wednesday: Class assemblies take place.
- Thursday: Upper and Lower School assemblies are led by a member of SLT, a Class Teacher or a class or Pupil Voice Group.
- Friday: Music Assembly for Upper and Lower school.

Withdrawing Children from Assemblies

If a parent does not wish their child to participate in a particular assembly or in any assemblies, they must put their request in writing for the Head to read and approve. Where possible, parents are encouraged to allow their children to participate in assemblies, as the school considers this to be an integral part of their learning.

However, in the small number of incidences where parents are not happy for their child to be involved in a celebration of a religious nature, the children are withdrawn and either go to another class or sit in the reception area outside of the hall.

Ground Rules for Assemblies

Assemblies are very special times at Melcombe and it is important that the following rules are adhered to:

- Children come into assembly in silence and listen to the selected music.
- Each class is assigned an area to sit in.
- Children are encouraged to be active listeners at all times and to demonstrate whole body listening and looking.
- There is a 'no hands up' policy in the school and children are therefore given 'thinking time' before children are asked to respond to a question.
- Children are expected to reflect on what has been said and are at times encouraged to close their eyes and bow their heads.
- When assembly is finished the children are dismissed, while listening to music in silence.

Monitoring / Evaluation and Review

The assemblies are reviewed by the teaching staff once a year and improvements are constantly being made to ensure they are interactive and meet the children's needs and interests.

Children also give the Head feedback on assemblies and make suggestions on how to make them appealing to the wider age range of 5 to 11.