

Collective Worship Policy

Mere First School

KS1 and KS2

MERE SCHOOL

A Policy for Collective Worship

At Mere School we believe that Collective Worship should:-

- give expression to, reaffirm and practise the values of the school community
- strengthen and support the school community and individual members
- provide an experience that promotes the social, moral, spiritual and cultural development of pupils.
- introduce children to the concept of worship
- provide an opportunity for personal and shared reflection and response to fundamental questions of life and those things that are of eternal concern and value to human beings.
- be of a broadly Christian nature.
- celebrate and give thanks for achievements within the school, local and international community and occasions of significance, including festivals.
- foster a respect for self and engender a concern for the needs of others.

In particular the following school aims are fulfilled through the act of Collective Worship:-

- to create a caring and happy environment in which all pupils will have the desire, commitment and confidence to learn in preparation for a rapidly changing society.
- to affirm and respect every individual and their property irrespective of gender, religions beliefs, and social, ethnic or economic background or ability.
- to offer a rich and stimulating environment.
- to encourage a community based on the values of courtesy, morality, consideration, respect, generosity, forgiveness and fairness.

Legal Framework – School Standards and Framework Act 1998

Responsibility for arranging school worship in community schools rests with the headteacher after consultation with the governing body.

All pupils should take part in a daily act of Collective Worship.

There may be a single act of worship for all pupils or separate acts for pupils in different age groups or in different school groups. Collective Worship may be held at any time during the school day, either on or off the school premises, e.g. Easter service in the Church.

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from Collective Worship. This school expects that withdrawal will only be made following parental discussions with the headteacher followed by written confirmation of withdrawal.

The school has a system of suitable supervision for children withdrawn from Acts of Collective Worship. However, no additional work is set or followed in this time.

All teachers, including the headteacher, have the right to withdraw from the Act of Collective Worship, but the headteacher maintains statutory accountability.

Collective Worship organised by the school will be of a “wholly or broadly Christian character” and not distinctive of any particular Christian denomination. By broadly Christian in this school we mean:-

- worship contains some elements, which accord special status to Jesus Christ, his teaching and actions, e.g. The Sermon on the Mount and Miracles of Healing.
- exploration of the belief that in the person and example of Jesus, God can be seen in a unique way.
- sharing with children the Christian belief that all Christians are called to continue in Jesus’ work of love and compassion for their fellow human beings – through the exploration of key concepts – love, trust, forgiveness, mercy, humility, courage and integrity, respect for life, value of an individual, justice, co-operation and service, honesty and truthfulness.

Acts of worship should take into account pupils’ ages, aptitudes and family backgrounds.

Structure

At Mere School worship is organised as follows:-

- Groupings and Timings

Monday	-	KS1 – 10.30 am, KS2 - 10.15 am – Collective Worship in KS groups
Tuesday	-	Praise Thro’ Song – whole school – 10.30 am
Wednesday	-	KS1 – 10.30 am, KS2 – 10.15 am - Collective Worship in KS groups
Thursday	-	KS1 – 10.30 am, KS2 – 10.15 am - Collective Worship in KS groups
Friday	-	Whole School Collective Worship plus recognition of Personal Achievements – 10.30 am.

- Leadership

The RE subject leader is responsibly for Collective Worship across the school

- Place

Large hall

- Participation

All children.

Planning

At Mere School Collective Worship is planned:-

1. around themes, including major festivals (See Appendix 1).
2. in response to local, national, international news and issues.

Recording and Evaluation

Acts of Worship are planned, recorded and evaluated. Worship is recorded in a Collective Worship diary and this is kept on the table in the staffroom.

Approaches

Collective Worship is first and foremost for the educational benefit of pupils. It is a shared activity, which allows a variety of responses. It is an inclusive activity, which builds links with the broad dimensions of the curriculum. The creation of atmosphere is assisted by appropriate music, visual foci and symbols. Opportunity for reflection and responses, Prayer, story, music drama and art are also used to appeal to the pupils' imagination. We also welcome visitors to participate in our Collective Worship. Class Assemblies are organised termly and parents invited.

Monitoring

In this school Collective Worship will be monitored by:

1. discussion at staff and governor meetings. This discussion will include:
 - review of content and methodology;
 - suitability for age, aptitude and ability, variety of styles, groupings, leadership.
 - links to curriculum and classroom experience;
 - resources and budget;
 - inset.
2. Review of job description and role of collective worship co-ordinator.
3. Visiting advisers, inspectors and RE subject leader.

Summer 2007

Review: Summer 2010

