



Marston Montgomery Primary School

Collective Worship Policy

Policy written – November 2019

To be reviewed – November 2022

Marston Montgomery Primary School

Collective Worship

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, as a class or whole school and participating in an assembly.

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 our school community.

Organisation of collective worship

We hold a daily act of collective worship in our school and this forms part of each assembly. It may include music, song, stories, shared experiences, readings from sacred writings, prayer and reflection. We conduct assemblies in a dignified and respectful way. Children are taught 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 to listen carefully to the teachings and participate fully in prayer and hymns. We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music and sometimes candles or other objects that act as a focal point for the attention of the children.

The Head Teacher and staff normally conduct assemblies and these are supported by representatives from the local community and church. The themes of our assemblies may be related to topics we teach as part of our PSHCE Curriculum, current issues at school, events in the news or areas that we are developing across the school e.g. Community and understanding.

We also take the themes of our assemblies from the traditions of the Christian faith and other major world religions e.g. festivals and events. We also hold special assemblies to celebrate individual achievements, both in and out of school. Further opportunities for children to experience awe and wonder are provided throughout the curriculum, e.g. RE using Derbyshire's Agreed Syllabus 2014-2019, Literacy, Art, Science, PSHCE and Music.

Our weekly Celebration Assembly celebrates the achievements and learning of the children. The children participate in this assembly by showing their work to other children and talking about their achievements. Parents are invited to attend this assembly.

Assemblies provide an opportunity to reward children for their successes both in and out of school. They also play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school, which is that all children are valued and their achievements recognised. Parents are also invited to our Harvest Festival, Christingle and Leavers' Assembly. Lunchtime routines include collectively saying a prayer before the start of the meal.

Right of withdrawal

We expect children to attend assembly and join in with the lunchtime prayer. 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.

Monitoring and Review

The RE lead monitors whole school and class acts of worship throughout the year, alongside the head teacher and governors.