

Staff Lead:
Head Teacher
Governors Committee:
Full
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Collective Worship Policy

Philosophy

Melksham Oak Community School is a Community school; we recognise that collective worship is an important opportunity to provide opportunities for our students' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

Aims

It is our aim that worship should:

- reflect on values that are of a broadly Christian nature and on their own beliefs
- develop a community spirit, a common ethos and shared values
- contribute to the spiritual, social, moral and cultural development of each child
- allow reflection and response to the fundamental questions of life and those things that are of eternal concern and value to human beings
- celebrate the achievements within the school, local and international community and occasions of significance, including festivals
- foster and enable a concern for the needs of others, a recognition of the vulnerability of self and of others
- provide members of the school community with the opportunity to explore God and the deities of major world faiths and other belief systems.

Legal Status of Collective Worship

The 1988 Education Reform Act requires that 'all pupils in attendance at a maintained school shall on each day take part in an act of Collective Worship'. The school accepts the desirability of this legislation but has considerable practical difficulties in meeting this requirement. We seek to do our best to keep the spirit of this legislation. Students will have the opportunity to explore the high quality objectives described during assemblies and in other school activities. We aim to provide students with variety in their experience of worship. Acts of worship may take the form of a whole school act of worship for all pupils or separate acts of worship for students in different age groups or school groups. Collective Worship may be held at any time during the school day and take many forms.

Our Assembly themes link to commonality in the values of major faiths and belief systems.

The responsibility for recording school worship in our school rests with the Head teacher, whilst the time tabling of the assembly rota and themes rests with the Senior Leadership Team.

All acts of worship and assembly themes are in accordance with the guidance issued in circular 1/94 which states that worship should be of a 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character' and not distinctive of any particular Christian denomination. By broadly Christian in this school we mean that:

- Exploration of key concepts such as love, trust, forgiveness, mercy, humility, courage and integrity, respect for life, value of an individual, justice, co-operation and service, and honesty and truthfulness.

We will also invite religious leaders from other faiths to contribute

Rights of Withdrawal

We seek to be an inclusive community however we respect the right of parents to withdraw their children for religious acts around collective worship. This school expects that withdrawal will only be made following parental discussion with the head teacher/worship co-ordinator followed by written confirmation of withdrawal.

The school will provide suitable supervision for students withdrawn from acts of collective worship. However, no additional work is set or followed in this time.

All teachers, including the head teacher, have the right of withdrawal from the act of collective worship, but the head teacher, should he wish exercise this right, maintains statutory accountability for acts of collective worship.

This right of withdrawal doesn't extend to assemblies.

Recording and Evaluation

Each person leading worship is asked to record their act of worship on a simple proforma on staff support. These include a space for evaluation. These planning sheets form the schools record of worship and are the responsibility for the AHT (Behaviour and Attendance). The nominated governor, Ruth Gillings, has a role monitoring collective worship at the school.

Resources

A number of resources for collective worship are available to the school through the Chaplain (Reverend Barry Blackford), who made a major contribution to the development of this policy.

This policy has been assessed against the requirements of the Equality and Diversity Policy and found to have no impact.