



MARTON-CUM-GRAFTON
CE VA PRIMARY SCHOOL

Collective Worship Policy

This policy was reviewed by: Mrs Thirlaway and Revd S Feaster

The Governing Body approved the policy: January 2018

The policy will be reviewed: Annually

...a time for thinking.. .sharing. . .listening. . stillness...

Aims and purpose

Marton cum Grafton C of E School is a Church of England Voluntary Aided School. Worship is therefore an important part of the school day as it gives us the opportunity to come together as a school community to enable pupils to learn, talk about and be aware of God. It is attended by all students, staff and any visitors in school are very welcome to join in.

All acts of worship reflect the Anglican status of the school. In addition to daily school worship, special celebrations take place in Church.

The aims and purpose of collective worship are:

- reflect the Ethos Statement and/or Mission Statement of the school
- underpin the Christian values and ethos of the school
- be appropriate to the ages, aptitudes and backgrounds of the pupils
- offer opportunities to worship God
- be inclusive and an occasion where each individual's integrity is respected
- offer opportunities for pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development
- help children explore and develop their own spirituality
- enable children to explore and evaluate their own beliefs
- be an opportunity for pupils to reflect on human existence
- reflect some of the practices and traditions of the local church

- to acknowledge the things which have meaning, value and purpose for the pupils as individuals, as well as for the school and the wider community
- celebrate the values and worth of the school community
- to develop in children a sense of community within and beyond the school
- offer opportunities to share worship with parents, governors and members of the local community
- to celebrate achievements, special occasions and special events in relation to individuals, the school as a whole or to the wider community
- show appreciation for the God given gifts and talents of the school community
- to acknowledge and respect difference and diversity

Opportunities for Collective Worship

We hold a daily act of Collective Worship. This is sometimes a whole-school event although we also hold separate key stage and class assemblies.

Collective Worship will include opportunities for:

- individual response/reflection
- listening and thinking about the world, themselves and others
- introducing pupils to the use of symbolism and religious language to express feelings and beliefs
- Sharing in experiences of sadness, excitement, joy, thankfulness, togetherness and challenge
- Silence, stillness, meditation, contemplation and prayer
- Celebration of the shared values of the school community

As an Anglican school, we aim to be inclusive yet distinctive, so aim to explore:

- Christian values such as forgiveness, compassion, thankfulness, courage, wisdom, perseverance, generosity and hope
- The cycles of the Christian Year
- The Bible as a source for learning, inspiration and guidance
- Aspects of Anglican worship but also special services, such as Leavers' Service
- The use of prayers which reflect/express Christian belief
- Simple responses, prayers and hymns
- The Anglican Church's commitment to ecumenism - other clergy e.g. Methodist may be invited to lead worship
- The band of community which encompasses race, religion etc - other visitors attending/leading worship
- Dialogue with other faith groups - celebrating shared values
- Recognition of the major festivals of other faiths

Organisation of Collective Worship

We conduct Collective Worship in a dignified and respectful way. We tell children that this 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, to listen carefully to the teachings, and to participate fully in prayers, activities, songs and hymns. We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music, our standing wooden cross, our stained glass window, special lighting and sometimes candles or other objects, to focus the attention of the children.

The Acts of Collective Worship are conducted by the Headteacher, other members of teaching staff, the vicar or sometimes by other representatives of the parish and local religious groups. Children are often involved in leading aspects of Collective Worship, particularly during class worship times.

We take the themes of our assemblies from the traditions of the Christian faith and the Values for Life materials. We observe the festivals and mark the events of the Christian calendar. We also recognise the major festivals of other religions.

Our Collective Worship reflects the achievements and learning of the children. We encourage the children to participate by showing their work to the other children, and by raising issues that they have discussed in their classes. Collective Worship provides an opportunity to reward children for their achievements both in and out of school. It also plays an important part in promoting the ethos of the school, which is that all children are valued, and all achievements are recognised. Marton cum Grafton CE VA School is a successful school, and we continue to celebrate the successes of all our children during Collective Worship.

Right of Withdrawal

We expect all children to attend Collective Worship. However, any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from religious worship, and the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during that part of the assembly. Parents do not have to explain or give reasons for their request. This right of withdrawal complies with the 1944 Education Act, and was restated in the 1988 Education Reform Act.

The Headteacher will keep a record of all children who have been withdrawn from Collective Worship.

Monitoring

Monitoring the policy and practice of Collective Worship is the role the foundation governors. The governors concerned liaise with the Headteacher before reporting to the governors.