



Collective Worship/Assembly Policy

Rationale:

Collective Worship plays a central role in the Moat Primary School. It models the school's Christian ethos and values and provides a setting where staff, children and visitors may worship God. Collective worship involves the members of the school community coming together and participating in an assembly. Although based on Christian Values, we conduct our assemblies in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs of all members of the school and to those who do not commit to any belief.

Purposes:

Collective Worship provides an opportunity for the children:

- to worship God and experience worship;
- to appreciate their worth and value to God
- to consider spiritual and moral issues;
- to reinforce positive attitudes;
- to bring personal needs and the needs of others before God in prayer;
- to hear some of the central teachings of the Christian faith at an appropriate level and thereby give them encouragement to explore their own beliefs and understanding of God.

Guidelines:

The principal or vice-principal will normally conduct worship. Local clergy or lay preachers will also participate on a rota. Visiting speakers will be restricted to those agreed and recommended to the principal. The approval of the Chairperson of the Board of Governors will be sought.

Organisation of Local Worship

We hold a daily act of worship in our school. We conduct assemblies in a dignified and respectful way. We tell the children that assembly is a time 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 prayers and songs of worship. We create a worship atmosphere by using appropriate music for pupils entering and leaving assembly.

Many assemblies are based around moral values and behaviours that are consistent with religious teaching. We often reflect upon the festivals and events of the Christian calendar. Sometimes the theme of our assemblies reflect and build on topics that we teach as part of the school curriculum, in particular areas of PDMU (Personal Development and Mutual Understanding).

Our assemblies reflect the achievements both in and out of school and the learning of children. They play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school, which is that all children are valued and achievements are recognised.

We invite parents to join us on special occasions.

We welcome the Board of Governors at our assemblies at any time.

Right of withdrawal

We expect all children to attend assembly. 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 1998 Education Reform Act. The Principal will keep a record of all children who withdraw from collective worship.

March 2014; Reviewed February 2017