

MILTON ROAD PRIMARY SCHOOL

Collective Worship Policy

At Milton Road Primary School, collective worship is set within the context of 'Assemblies' – which may include other features besides those required of collective worship.

Worship has a wide range of meanings and forms of expression. For some people this might be devotion to a divine being, power or personal God; for others it might mean reflection on and understanding of those elements of life which are of value and worth.

Aims and Purpose

During collective worship we aim to:

- Provide an all-inclusive opportunity to build and reinforce community values
- Reflect on and understand elements of life which are of value and worth
- Provide a variety of opportunities for spiritual, moral, social and cultural development
- Provide opportunities for expressing shared experiences and interests and for celebrating special occasions together
- Provide opportunities in which pupils interact with other year groups, staff and on occasions the wider community
- Fulfil statutory requirements of a daily act of collective worship for all pupils.

The School Community

Our school community is made up of people from many different religions and cultures. Assemblies are non-denominational and conducted in a manner which is sensitive to the faiths and beliefs of all members of the school community. We are proud of the diversity of our school community and as such hold assemblies that reflect and celebrate the traditions of the main religions, particularly those that are represented in the school and the wider community.

Assemblies are regarded as a special time in the day of calm reflection and are conducted accordingly. Children are expected to behave respectfully and thoughtfully and are asked to come in and leave assemblies without talking.

Organisation of Collective Worship

Collective worship involves members of the school coming together and participating in an assembly every day. These assemblies normally involve all of the pupils in the school and may be whole school assemblies or separate key stage assemblies, with their times varying accordingly.

Our assemblies also reflect the achievements and learning of the children. We encourage children to participate by holding, each week, achievement assemblies and class assemblies, during which children can show their work and successes to others, and can raise issues that they have discussed in their classes. These assemblies provide an opportunity to reward children for their achievements both in and out of school and celebrate them together. They also play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school - that all children and their achievements are valued.

Assemblies are normally conducted by the headteacher, deputy head or other members of staff, but are sometimes led by visitors to the school.

Assemblies are planned every term on a thematic basis, with each theme lasting for several weeks. Themes are very broad to allow for flexibility and variety of delivery.

Right of Withdrawal from Collective Worship

Every effort is made to show sensitivity towards personal faiths and to include all pupils and staff in collective worship. For example when using a prayer from a particular faith, this is introduced with sensitivity and pupils are not required to say or affirm prayers which they do not believe. A prayer may be introduced like this: *I am going to read a Christian (Hindu, Buddhist.....) prayer. I would like you to think carefully about the words. Some of you might wish to make the words your own* (Christians might do this by saying 'Amen').

There may be parts of an assembly, for example when a Christian hymn is sung, in which a pupil does not wish to participate. It is perfectly acceptable to withdraw from a part of the assembly by not participating.

A parent may make a request for their child/ren to be wholly or partly excused from attendance at religious worship at school.

Monitoring and Review

It is the role of the Governing Body to monitor and review the policy and practice of collective worship in the school.

Date: May 2005

Review date: 2008