



Collective Worship Policy

1 We believe Collective Worship is central to the life and vision of the school. Worship expresses and helps fulfil the school aims intrinsic in all that goes on at Meriden.

2 Aims and purpose

2.1 The aims and purpose of collective worship are:

- to provide an opportunity for children to worship God;
- to enable children to consider spiritual and moral issues;
- to enable children to explore their own beliefs;
- to encourage participation and response;
- to develop in children a sense of community spirit;
- to promote a common ethos, with shared values, and to reinforce positive attitudes;
- to teach children how to worship.

3 Collective worship

We understand worship to be a special act or occasion whose purpose is to show reverence to God. We view our meeting together for worship as a major contributor to both the spiritual development of each individual and to our school ethos. Through this we can give children opportunities to experience and express awe and wonder.

Collective worship involves members of the school coming together and participating in an assembly. Assemblies may also include elements of school organisation and information giving in addition to, and separate from, worship. We strive to ensure everyone can take an active part in the 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 the traditions of the Christian Church. However, we conduct our assemblies in a manner that is sensitive to the faiths and beliefs of all members of the school.

While most acts of worship in our school are Christian, we also hold assemblies that reflect the traditions of other religions that are represented in the school and the wider community.

4 Organisation of collective worship

We meet daily, as a whole or in part, for worship. This forms part of each morning assembly. This can be a whole-school assembly, a separate Key Stage 1 and Foundation or Key Stage 2 assemblies, or a class assembly. Fifteen minutes daily is allocated to assembly.

We conduct assemblies in a dignified and respectful way. We tell children 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, to listen carefully to the teaching, and

to participate fully in prayer and hymns. We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music, and sometimes candles or other objects, to focus the attention of the children.

The assemblies are normally conducted by the Headteacher, member of the Senior Leadership Team or other members of staff, but are sometimes led by local clergy or other representatives of local community or religious groups.

We have a three year plan of themes for worship. Each weekly theme is supplemented by suggestions for ideas to explore, and resources for stories and ideas are regularly augmented. This guidance is not exhaustive and staff also often use websites which supply material, which may respond to topical subjects such as the tsunami disaster of 2005.

We take themes of our assemblies from the traditions of the Christian faith, and we observe festivals and mark events of the Christian calendar. Sometimes the themes of our assemblies are related to learning and topics that are part of the school curriculum. Sometimes the themes are related to personal, social, moral and spiritual values and development.

Our assemblies reflect the achievements and learning of the children. We encourage the children to participate in the assemblies by showing their work to the other children, and by raising issues that they have discussed in their classes. Assemblies provide an opportunity to reward children for their achievements 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 all achievements are recognised. Meriden School is a successful school, and we shall continue to celebrate the successes of all our children at our assemblies.

Each Friday there is a 'Well Done' assembly that parents are invited to attend. We encourage their attendance, as this promotes community spirit, and shows school and home working together in support of the children's achievements.

Governors' attendance at our assemblies is always welcome.

5 Right of withdrawal

We expect all children to attend assembly. 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 keeps a record of all children who have been withdrawn from collective worship.

6 Monitoring and review

Governors monitor the policy and practice of collective worship.

Approved by Governing Body	November 2015		
Signature of Chair		Date	Nov 2015
Review Cycle	Three years	Review Date	Nov 2018

Format of Assembly

The worship should be planned with clear outcomes. Worship is monitored through a variety of formats including observations, children's recordings and worship team feedback. Fifteen minutes daily is allocated to worship and assemblies. The weekly pattern of worship allows for differentiation, where either single class or single key stage can explore the week's theme at a suitable pitch to give greater opportunity for children's active engagements.

The weekly cycle of worship takes the following form:

Values	Each half term of the academic year has its own Christian value. Class worship may follow the suggested theme or choose another which reflects a particular area of classroom study.
Theme	Sometimes worship will focus upon a particular Christian teaching or special day, for example Baptism, Eucharist or Saints days.
Music	The music that welcomes children into the Hall may be chosen to reflect both the value or theme for the week and/ or the requirements of the Music National Curriculum. Children are invited to join in and sing. The music may be introduced and discussed. Music may simply encourage a reflective and peaceful atmosphere so children are receptive to worship.
Focus	To assist children in Worship, a table with cloth and candle enables a focus. The lit candle signifies worship time. Similarly, the wall cross may be used as a focus.
Story/Talk	A few words to introduce the main story of the morning which will illustrate the theme or value. N.B. Always try to include the children by encouraging their participation in an active way e.g. drama, question/ answer.
Prayer	Children are invited to close their eyes and fold their hands together and listen to God and ourselves. The prayer may involve the children in responding orally or in silent contemplation. This may be followed by the Lord's prayer or the school Prayer, as felt appropriate. Children are invited to respond with 'Amen' : 'so be it'.
Hymn	An appropriate hymn may be sung.
Conclusion	The teacher 'sums up' the Assembly, perhaps involving the children. If possible and appropriate, the children might be left with a 'thought for the day' i.e. a question, or something to think about or strive for during the school day e.g. can you be kind at least one person today.
Assembly	There must be a clear distinction between the worship element and the school assembly. Any messages, notices and school 'business' should take place separately either at the beginning or end of the worship.
Parting Music	Children leave to music, similarly to entry, being invited to sing along.

Details of Assembly times and personnel are to be found in the Staff Handbook, but may be changed at short notice according to circumstances.

The following festivals, which play a major part in the lives of many in Great Britain may be the subject of individual assemblies.

Christian: All Saints Day, St. Andrew's Day, Christmas, Shrove Tuesday, Ash Wednesday, St. David's Day, St. Patrick's Day, St George's Day, Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Sunday, Ascension Day, Pentecost, Whitsun.

Buddhist: The Day of Enlightenment

Chinese: New Year

Hindu: Holi, The Birth of Krishna, Diwali

Jewish: Passover, Yom Kippur, Hanukkah, Shavout

Muslim: Ramadan, Eid-ul-Adha

Sikh: Birth of Guru Gobind Singh, Diwali

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name.
Your Kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom,
the power and the glory are yours.
Now and for ever.

Amen

Meriden School Prayer

This is our school.
Let peace dwell here,
Let the rooms be full of contentment,
Let love abide here,
Love of one another,
Love of mankind,
Love of life itself,
And love of God.
Let us remember
That, as many hands build a house,
So many hearts make a school.