



Assemblies and Collective Worship Policy

Person responsible: Head teacher
Ratified by the governing body: Summer 2024
Date for review: Summer 2027

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'P. Parmenter', is positioned below the text.

Dr Pip Parmenter
Chair of Governors

Our Shared Aims for Assemblies and Collective Worship:

- To provide the opportunity for pupils to consider spiritual and moral issues as they explore their own beliefs.
- To encourage participation and response.
- To develop community spirit, promote a common ethos with shared values and reinforce positive attitudes.
- To enable members of the school community to come together and to reflect upon the school's communal identity.
- To make explicit the values and assumptions which underpin the day to day life of the school and the wider community.
- To reflect upon and to celebrate the many activities taking place in school.
- To celebrate and to affirm difference and diversity.
- To heighten aesthetic awareness and to enable pupils to explore how the arts help in the expression of feelings.
- To enable pupils to co-operate in the planning and delivery of Assemblies and Collective Worship.

Our Aims for Collective Worship:

- To provide opportunities for Collective Worship that are inclusive. We strive to make such experiences appropriate for all pupils and teachers/ teaching assistants, whatever their religious beliefs or non- believers.
- To develop a sense of community so that Collective Worship can promote our common ethos and shared values.
- To reflect the wider traditions of Christian belief and to ensure that the majority of our Acts of Collective Worship are broadly Christian in character.
- To ensure that participants are actively involved by encouraging them to respond to and reflect upon what is presented to them.
- To provide Collective Worship that promotes spiritual, moral and cultural development so that pupils feel free to express and explore their views openly and honestly.
- To make Collective Worship a 'special' time with its own distinctive atmosphere. These times will then be conducive to spiritual reflection, silent contemplation and, if appropriate, prayer and worship.
- To ensure that Collective Worship is planned and documented carefully so that it is of a high quality.
- To provide Acts of Worship where there is an opportunity to worship God, or not to worship God.
- To enable pupils to reflect upon a range of Holy Books, inspirational writings, music and works of art, drawn from a variety of cultures.

Legal Requirements for Collective Worship:

- All registered pupils, apart from those who are withdrawn by their parents/carers, must, on each school day, take part in an act of Collective Worship. This applies to all pupils in Reception classes, including those below compulsory school age.

- Parents/carers have the right to withdraw their children from Collective Worship and teachers/ teaching assistants have the right to withdraw themselves. Both pupils and teachers/ teaching assistants may be required to attend assembly.
- Acts of Collective Worship can take place at any time during the school day. Time spent on Collective Worship generally lies outside curricular time and cannot count as part of the taught school day.
- The school prospectus must contain information about the Collective Worship that the school provides and about parents/carers' rights to withdraw their children from it.
- Responsibility for ensuring that the legal requirements are met rests with the Headteacher, in consultation with the Governors.
- Most acts of worship in any one school term must be "wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character". An act of worship is such if it "reflects the broad traditions of Christian belief without being distinctive of any particular Christian denomination".
- Acts of Worship must be appropriate for the pupils, in that they must take account of the pupils' ages, aptitudes and family background.

We aim to make both our Assembly / Collective Worship times and our R.E. lessons open and exploratory. We hope that Assembly / Collective Worship times provide a sense of occasion that would not be so evident in classroom R.E. lessons. However, both are linked and interwoven (together with other curriculum areas) as we try to encourage reflection and personal response to matters of significance and value. We seek to develop pupils' awareness of a range of spiritual possibilities as we explore the ultimate questions in life, so that they can respond in an informed and thoughtful way. In Assembly / Collective Worship and R.E. pupils will be introduced to a variety of forms of worship and will learn about the use of symbolism and religious language to express feelings and belief.

Our Arrangements for Assemblies and Collective Worship:

Planning:

Termly plans are to be found on the staff room notice board. Some Assembly / Collective Worship times are used to highlight important dates in the Christian calendar and in other major faiths. Many assemblies take their themes from aspects of moral and social education, together with citizenship.

Delivery:

Our pupils are expected to enter the hall quietly and listen to the variety of music that is provided to start our assemblies. We all strive to produce a special atmosphere, conducive to reflection and worship. All children join in Assemblies and Collective Worship. Pupils with special needs, who would find quiet participation difficult, are supported by teaching assistants.

Stories, music, poetry, personal anecdotes, readings from religious works, video clips may be used to introduce and develop themes.

Simple hymns and inspirational songs which are appropriate to levels of understanding in each key stage are used. The words of hymns and songs may be discussed and reflected upon.

Each time of Collective Worship, includes a quiet contemplation time where a candle may be lit and where children may be invited to reflect on a key issue or say a prayer to God if they wish. Reflections and Prayers may be written by the children. Pupils are asked to be still and quiet at these reflective times so that those who wish to worship God are able to do so.

Weekly Plan

Monday	Themed
Tuesday	Singing assembly
Wednesday	Themed
Thursday	PSHE (In classes)
Friday	Praise Assembly

Withdrawn Pupils:

Our Assemblies are arranged so that pupils withdrawn from Acts of Collective Worship may attend the majority of the assembly, before leaving. The same arrangements apply for the Singing Together Assembly.

Roles and Responsibilities:

The Headteacher will ensure that:

- The local governing body is consulted about the broad nature and arrangements for collective worship.
- A daily act of collective worship is provided.
- Alternative provision is made for pupils whose parents/carers request that they do not attend the collective worship.

Staff are invited to participate in and make an active contribution to collective worship, and encourage pupils to become actively involved.

Summary:

At Messing Primary we feel it important for the school community to come together each day for Assembly / Collective Worship. These times develop a community spirit,

promote a common ethos and reinforce positive attitudes. We also use these opportunities to celebrate and affirm difference and diversity, heighten aesthetic awareness and celebrate corporate and individual success.

We strive to create Assemblies / Acts of Collective Worship which are sensitive to the needs of all pupils and teachers and other members of staff, whatever their beliefs.

Our Acts of Collective Worship are broadly Christian in nature, without being distinctive of any particular Christian denomination. The chosen themes which are linked to PSHE and citizenship also include key issues from other world religions. We feel this is important so the children can learn to respect others' beliefs and customs which is essential as we live in a multi-faith society. We aim to foster and value feelings of awe, wonder, being uplifted and appreciation, as well as gratitude, respect and reverence. We hope that by making pupils aware of questions related to the ultimate mysteries of life and key issues from other world religions, they will understand how men and women through the ages have responded to these questions, and give them necessary insight that will help to inform their own response in the future.