

Milton Ernest C of E Primary School

Collective Worship Policy

Governors Committee:	Full Governing Board
Ratified:	March 23
Next date of Review:	March 24

Working Together, Aiming High, Shining Brightly
Let your light shine before others
Matthew 5:16

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‘Let your light shine before others’ Matthew 5:16

Our federation values every individual enabling them to flourish, aim high and reach their full potential with a lifelong love of learning that will prepare them for their future. Through their experience with us, they will foster a resilient attitude towards challenge and demonstrate a desire to learn, the motivation to improve and aspiration to be a positive contributor to our community and global village.

We want our school and church to be beacons that shine far and wide, lighting up our region with the light of Jesus through our work, rest and play. By learning Christian Values, by listening to the teachings of Jesus and by following the examples of Jesus we say to every member of our Community ‘Let your Light Shine’

Milton Ernest C of E Primary School

Collective Worship Policy

In our school our Christian vision, Working Together, Aiming High and Shining Brightly, shapes all that we do and was developed from Matthew 5:16 Let your light shine before others.

Collective Worship in a Church school should enable every child and adult to flourish and to live life in all its fullness. (John 10:10). It will help educate for wisdom, knowledge and skills, hope and aspiration, dignity and respect, and developing community and understanding of living well together.

Our collective worship policy strengthens and supports the Christian identity of our school, reaffirms our vision and associated Christian values and celebrates the central role that each child has to play in their community. Our worship reflects the variety of traditions found in the Church of England, and will recognise and follow the Christian liturgical year. The daily Christian act of worship is central to our ethos and is supported by all staff and governors. It makes an important contribution to the overall spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of the whole school community.

Policy Statement

In Milton Ernest C of E Primary worship is central to the life of school and is the main platform for exploring the school's vision. It is well planned and of high quality so that the whole school community is engaged in exploring the teachings of Jesus and the Bible. Collective worship aims to be inspirational, invitational and inclusive and will lead people to a threshold where they can witness worship and join in, if they wish.

Through Collective Worship pupils will be offered a space and a place for the telling of the Christian story. They will be offered an understanding of worship through being invited to participate in or observe prayer, reading and reflection on the Bible, liturgy and experience of the musical and other imaginative riches of Christianity. Opportunities to reflect on the beauty, joy and pain of the world will be given. Pupils will be given time to consider their responsibilities to others and to grow in love and service.

Time will be given for celebration, both for the accomplishments of school members and to mark the seasonal festivals of the Christian calendar. Pupils will be offered time to be able to contemplate and develop spiritually.

Our caring ethos and the value which we place on the development of the whole child; spiritually, morally, socially, culturally and intellectually, is reflected in our worship.

We value this special time in the school day for the space it gives children to develop a reflective approach to life and the ability to express their reflections in traditionally religious ways or any other appropriate manner. Worship both reflects and nurtures the ethos of the whole school. In particular, it develops the feeling of belonging to a community which is essential for personal development and spiritual growth.

Whilst recognising the right of parents to withdraw their children, we aim for acts of worship to be inclusive of all pupils. Careful planning and preparation ensure that there is a clear focus for pupils. Collective worship is first and foremost for the benefit of all pupils, but also beneficial to staff and the wider school community. It is a shared activity that allows for a variety of responses, and provides an opportunity for those of any religious faith or none to focus and reflect on stimuli that allow the human spirit to respond with integrity. The school is committed to respect the integrity of the religious communities from which pupils come.

Church of England Guidance

Collective worship policy at Milton Ernest C of E Primary draws on guidance from the Church of England. This guidance document has been produced to challenge, to guide and set expectations for Church school communities and diocesan authorities, encouraging them to reflect on their practice and to ensure that collective worship remains the relevant and essential component of an education that enables all pupils to flourish.

Legal Requirements

There must be a daily act of collective worship in all maintained schools for all pupils, other than those in a nursery class or a nursery school. This can take place at any time in the school day and in any groupings. Collective worship in a Church of England School must be in accordance with the tenets and practices of the Church of England. Worship in Milton Ernest Primary should be distinctly Christian.

The governing body have the responsibility for ensuring that the school meets the requirements for worship detailed in the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Evaluation Document. They are also tasked with monitoring and evaluating the impact of worship on the school community in consultation with the head teacher.

The right of withdrawal

In Milton Ernest C of E Primary School there are children whose families are members of another faith, or who hold a non-religious world view. Part of the distinctively Christian nature of Church of England Schools is that they should be as hospitable and inclusive to all in the community they serve. As collective worship occupies such a central place in the life of the Church school, this should be made clear on induction, and it is hoped that parents will be making a specific choice of the school knowing that the distinctive ethos will determine a Christian tradition within collective worship.

The 1944 and 1988 Education Acts state that parents have the right to withdraw children from collective worship and suitable arrangements should be made to accommodate these children.

On occasions, a parent may make a request for their child to be withdrawn from Collective Worship. There is an expectation that parents wishing to request a withdrawal will meet with the Headteacher to discuss their concerns and requirements. This will then be followed with a written confirmation of withdrawal.

During the meeting, it may be helpful to establish:

- The elements of worship in which the parent would object to the child taking part
- The other aspects of school life that are impacted by the Christian foundation of the school such as prayer and reflective areas
- The practical implications of withdrawal
- Whether the parent will require any advanced notice of such worship, and if so, how much

Where parents have withdrawn their children from collective worship and request religious worship according to

their particular faith or denomination, the governors and head teacher will seek to respond positively to such requests providing:

- Such arrangements can be made at no additional cost to the school
- That the alternative provision would be consistent with the overall purposes of the school curriculum as set out in the Education Acts

If the Parent asks that a pupil should be wholly or partly excused from attending any religious worship at the school, then the school must comply. In addition, Staff also have the right to withdraw from the act of collective worship.

Guiding Principles

Collective worship in Milton Ernest C of E Primary aims to:

- Have a pivotal place in the life of the school.
- Provide a caring and supportive environment.
- Support pupils and adults in their spiritual growth.
- Be the central vehicle by which the school's vision is unpacked and explored so that the whole school community is challenged and engaged with the teachings of Jesus and the Bible.
- Provide an experience of worship that will offer opportunities for those present to observe and/or respond to the presence, power and peace of God as understood by Christians. This will always be invitational, offering an opportunity to take part whilst allowing the freedom for those of other faiths and none to be present with integrity.
- Support pupils in the development of their understanding of the Trinitarian nature of God in Christian belief
- Provide a variety of different opportunities for reflection, participation, challenge and enjoyment where all present can be actively involved and develop their own spirituality whilst contributing to the communal journey.
- Help children to become familiar with Christian language and symbolism and the cycle of the Church year.
- Explore a variety of ways of praying, giving children the opportunity to form their own prayers using multi-sensory foci and introduce them to some well know Christian prayers, as well as prayers of thanksgiving before mealtimes and home time.
- Offer opportunities to all children and staff to develop their skills in planning, leading and evaluating the impact of school worship with the support and shared engagement of the local church community.
- Give expression to, reaffirm and practise the values of the school community and British values
- Deepen their sense of wonder in the world around them
- Celebrate and give thanks for achievement within the school, local and international community.
- Allow reflection and response to the fundamental questions of life.

Development of the policy and links to other policies and documentation

We ensure that the principles for collective worship are reflected and applied in our policies and practice including those that are concerned with:

- Pupils' personal development and wellbeing
- SMSC and PSHE
- Staff recruitment, retention and professional development
- Care, guidance and support
- Behaviour, discipline and exclusions
- Working in partnership with parents, carers and guardians
- Working with the wider community

We also ensure that information about collective worship is included in the school prospectus and / or on the school website.

How Collective worship is organised

The following are shared as Christian elements of collective worship:

- Exploring the Christian understanding of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit
- Using the Bible for inspiration, stories and guidance
- Observing the cycle of the Church's Year – Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, Pentecost and Saints Days amongst ordinary days
- Learning and saying prayers from a number of sources, in particular the Lord's Prayer and the blessings in common use
- Singing a wide variety of hymns and songs from traditional to modern
- Experiencing Christian symbols in worship and reflecting on their meaning
- The use of prayer, silence and reflection

Leadership

Collective worship may be led by the Headteacher, a member of staff, a pupil or small group of pupils, a whole class or a member of the clergy or local church

Planning

- Planning is led by the Headteacher and the members of the local church. Resources include Roots and Fruits and picture news are used as part of this planning.
- Members of staff are provided with planning. Pupils work with members of staff to plan and deliver worship.
- Collective worship links to the Christian calendar. Key events and festivals are linked to worship throughout the academic year.
- The school has a value of the month. These are Christian values that are linked to the school and Christian calendar. Collective worship focuses on the value for the month and uses teachings and stories from the Bible to support this. The Christian values are at the core of all that we do.
- Collective worship provides opportunities for spiritual growth through prayer, stillness and reflection and an opportunity to celebrate achievements

Organisation

Collective Worship takes place each day. The Headteacher, staff, children or member of clergy conduct acts of Collective Worship. We regard it as a special time and expect children to behave in an appropriate way. Worship takes place in the Village Hall, Local church and classrooms within the school

All collective worship follows the same structure:

Gather - Welcome

Liturgy – ‘ This is the day the Lord has made.’ ‘ Let us rejoice and be glad in it.’

Lighting of the candle – ‘ We light this candle in the name of God the father, God the son and God the Holy spirit’

Engage – Introduction and main section

Respond - Reflection/prayer/sing

Send – ‘We go in peace, we go in joy, we go in love, we go and let our light shine’

Blowing out the candle

Monday: Whole school Collective Worship usually led by the Headteacher at 1:15.

Tuesday: Whole school Singing Worship usually led by the Headteacher at 1:15 pm.

Wednesday: Whole school Collective worship (including an act of collective worship) led by The Vicar at 1:15pm

Thursday: Class Worship led by staff

Friday: Celebration Collective worship focused on the vision and value of the half term (including an act of Collective Worship) at 3pm with all staff.

The principles of Collective Worship are extended through children saying a prayer at lunchtime and a prayer at the end of the day.

Throughout the year, parents and friends of the school from our local community are invited to special celebrations such as Harvest Festival, Christmas Nativity, Candlemas, Easter and School Leavers Assembly. This is a practical demonstration of the way home and the schoolwork together to support the achievements of our children.

We welcome governors' attendance at our assemblies at any time.

Staff development and training

We ensure that all staff, including support staff, receive appropriate training and opportunities for professional development, both as individuals and as groups or teams.

Monitoring and evaluation

- Monitoring and evaluating the impact of worship is carried out by the governing body, Senior Leadership team, members of staff and pupils.
- Monitoring is in the form of observations, evaluating planning and staff and pupil questionnaires.

Disseminating the policy

We ensure that this policy is known to all staff and governors, parents and carers and, as appropriate, to all pupils. This policy is available on our school website.

Date of last review: 28/3/23

Headteacher signed:

Date:

Chair of Governors signed:

Date: