

# Meriden Church of England Primary School



## Collective Worship Policy

Approved by Full Governing Body	June 2020		
Signature of Chair	<i>K Morris</i>	Date	June 2020
Review Cycle	Three years	Review Date	June 2023

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 worship.

We conduct assemblies in a dignified and respectful way. We tell children that worship 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 We welcome their participation 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 often led by local clergy or other representatives of local community or religious groups.

Worship may focus on the liturgical calendar, a Christian value, another faith/festival or be in response to a current moral issue in the news. 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 theme of our acts of worship 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. At other times, we focus upon fundamental British Values.

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 'Celebration' 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.

## Format of Worship

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.

We use the 'GERS' format as advocated by the resource *Flippin' Praise*\* which includes various elements as outlined below:

<b>Gathering</b>	<p><b>Theme</b> Sometimes worship will focus upon a particular Christian teaching such as the Trinity, or be a special day, for example Baptism, Eucharist or Saints' days. Occasionally a key concept from <i>Understanding Christianity</i> will be explored in greater detail.</p> <p><b>Music</b> 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.</p> <p><b>Values</b> 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.</p>
<b>Engaging</b>	<p><b>Focus</b> 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.</p> <p><b>Values</b> 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.</p> <p><b>Story/Talk</b> 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.</p>
<b>Responding</b>	<p><b>Prayer</b> 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. Children may be invited to lead the rest of the school using the 'Teaspoon' prayer format (Thank you, Sorry, Please). 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'.</p> <p><b>Hymn</b> An appropriate hymn may be sung.</p>
<b>Sending</b>	<p>The teacher 'sums up' the act of worship, 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.</p> <p><b>Parting music</b> Children leave to music, similarly to entry, being invited to sing along.</p>

\*Flippin' Praise <https://www.cofesuffolk.org/resources/cw-resources>

**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.

**Picture News** Once a week, we focus upon a current moral, ethical or social issue in the world. We use the resource [Picture News](#) as resource to support those leading the assembly. Where appropriate, we link this focus to our Christian values although these assemblies may well follow a slightly different format to the above. An example of the coverage of this resource can be found in appendix C.

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

---

## Appendix B

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, Litany of Reconciliation		
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		

## Appendix C

# Coverage



Week	News story	Focus question	British value
6 <sup>th</sup> Januar y	An eight-year-old boy who reviews toys and shares the videos online has topped a list of the highest-earning YouTube stars after making £19.8million! Ryan Kaji, from Ryan ToysReview, made the money between June 2018 and June 2019.	Should children be allowed to make money from creating and sharing videos?	Rule of Law - There are rules to follow to keep us safe online and to make sure we are responsible with the information we share with others. It's important to take time to understand and make sure we follow these rules.
13 <sup>th</sup> Januar y	Over the past 9 years, millions of people have fled their homes in Syria because of the ongoing war and conflict happening there. Many people left their homes and belongings behind, including their pets. Mohammad Aljaleel from the city of Aleppo is one of the few who have remained and looks after thousands of abandoned cats.	Can animals provide the same support to us as our friends?	Respect - Some people choose to dedicate their lives to helping others. In Syria, a few people have remained in difficult conditions to help look after cats that have been left behind.
20 <sup>th</sup> Januar y	Facebook has announced a new policy banning all artificial intelligence (AI) created videos that are likely to mislead viewers into thinking someone said words that they didn't actually say.	Can you ever trust what you view online?	Individual Liberty - When online, we may watch or read different information. It's important for us to be aware that not everything we see is true. We must be sure to think carefully and check where the information has come from.
27 <sup>th</sup> Januar y	The date that the UK are scheduled to leave the EU is the 31 <sup>st</sup> January 2020. A group of MPs hoped to signify the historic occasion with the ringing of Big Ben at 11pm. As the Elizabeth Tower and Big Ben is currently under refurbishment, the estimated cost of ensuring the bells work, is £500,000.	Should we celebrate the things that divide us?	Democracy - When important decisions need to be reached, sometimes a big vote or referendum takes place, this gives everyone an opportunity to have a voice and share their opinion.
3 <sup>rd</sup> February	A virus named the coronavirus has started to spread from China. Previously, it had never been seen in humans before and it is spreading more widely to different parts of the world.	Who should decide what's best for our health?	Rule of Law - There will be times when governments or other organisations will put restrictions or things in place to protect us from the spreading of diseases.
10 <sup>th</sup> February	Nike Vaporfly trainers, which have revolutionised running allowing runners to break world marathon records, have been given the green light by World Athletics.	Should sportswear be banned if it gives an unfair advantage?	Rule of Law - In sporting competitions, it's important that things are fair for all competitors. The people in charge will check things like the clothes and shoes people wear, to make sure the event is equal for all.
17 <sup>th</sup> February	The government have brought forward a ban on the sale of new petrol, diesel and hybrid cars to try to help the UK meet its target of emitting almost zero carbon by 2050.	Should petrol and diesel cars be banned?	Rule of Law - The government introduce laws not just to protect us but also to help the world. Cars powered by petrol and diesel contribute towards air pollution. Banning these will help make the air cleaner.

## 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.