



Policy: COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

Philosophy

The children at St John's Meads come from mainly Christian or secular backgrounds. The School is a Voluntary Aided Church of England Primary School. The Church of England therefore retains considerable influence in the life of the school.

Within the context of the faith and practice of the Church of England, our Collective Worship should contribute to the spiritual, moral, cultural, physical, intellectual and social development of the children, thus relating to the day-to-day aspirations and concerns of the school.

It should give all those present time for reflection, and should be conducted in such a way that the integrity of all those in the group is respected.

Aims

Collective Worship at St John's Meads aims to:

- involve children in Christian Worship;
- provide opportunities for the children's spiritual development;
- encourage participation and response, whether through active involvement in the presentation or worship, or through listening to, and joining in, the worship offered;
- celebrate and develop the school's values and ethos, reinforcing positive attitudes;
- enable adults and children in the School community to worship together.

Legal Requirements

The School must provide daily 'collective worship' for pupils. This is provided for within daily assemblies. The Governing Body is responsible for arranging collective worship after consultation with the Headteacher. The worship will generally take place on the school premises and will be wholly Christian in character and in keeping with the School trust deeds. Parents do have a right to withdraw their child/ren from collective worship, although it is assumed that, as a Church School, parents have understood and accepted the importance of their children's involvement in this aspect of school life.

The Governing Body is responsible for arranging a regular inspection of worship and is responsible for choosing the inspector.

Organisation

Collective Worship at St John's Meads currently follows this pattern:

Monday	Whole School Assembly	Visiting Church leader or worker
Tuesday	Whole School Worship	Child-led worship team
Wednesday	Whole School Assembly	Music Worship
Thursday	Whole School Assembly	Staff Rota
Friday	Whole School Assembly	Celebration Assembly

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Setting the Scene

There are three Year 6 assembly monitors who are in charge of setting the hall up, ready for the assembly to begin. The Worship board in the hall is regularly updated to include the theme of worship for the week ahead.

Collective Worship generally takes place in the school hall at 10.15am.

We endeavour to create an atmosphere which is warm and welcoming, peaceful and calm, yet vibrant and alive.

A table with a candle and an object linked to the theme of the week forms a focal point for worship. Pictures are often used as an initial focus point for the children.

Children are encouraged to enter the space quietly while music is playing. This reflective period enables those present to make their own conversation with God.

We recognise that worship and assembly may have different purposes and sometimes need to be distinct from one another. Notices, reminders, etc., are given out after the act of worship.

The assembly monitors then clear up the hall after worship. The Worship Council regularly ask children to evaluate and reflect on their experience of worship as well as plan forthcoming assemblies and help to lead worship.

Elements of Worship

A variety of strategies may be drawn on throughout the year to involve and interest the children, but each act of worship will include:

- Prayer
- Music, including singing
- Stories or other readings from sacred or inspirational literature
- Silence for reflection

Planning

The planning for Collective Worship is laid out in a framework, which reflects the main themes of Christian life and teaching. Worship themes are planned for in the three-year rolling cycle and teachers and church ministers are consulted in the planning and review stages of this. The themes also have resonances with the belief and teaching of other faiths from which material can be drawn.

The model is loosely drawn from the East Sussex Guidelines and follows the broad pattern of the Christian Year, but it is not restrictive, for there is always a need to respond to local or national/international situations.



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Equal Opportunities and Differentiation

All children at St John's Meads are expected and encouraged to participate in Collective Worship, which is part of a balanced curriculum that promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, physical, intellectual and social development of the pupils.

Resources

Specific Collective Worship resources are kept in the staff room. There are many other relevant RE resources found in the PPA area.

OHPs and piano copies for hymns and songs are kept in a red file in the hall.

CDs for listening can also be found in the hall/music room.

Recording and Evaluating

A record of acts of Collective Worship is contained in a file in the staffroom, alongside resources. This includes an element of evaluation. The Worship Council regularly ask children to comment on and reflect on their experience of worship and they record these in a reflection book used as part of the Worship display.