

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

This Collective Worship policy is in line with the School Standards & Framework Act 1998. Religious Education at Melbury follows the Nottinghamshire Agreed Syllabus. The school is not affiliated with any particular religious denomination.

AIMS AND PURPOSE

The aims and purpose of collective worship are:

- to provide an opportunity for children to worship
- to enable children to reflect on values that are of a broadly Christian nature and to explore their own beliefs
- to develop in children a sense of community spirit
- to enable children to consider spiritual and moral issues
- to promote a common ethos, with shared values, and to reinforce positive attitudes;
- to encourage participation and response to the worship offered.
- to develop respect/ understanding for other faiths and cultures.

THE SCHOOL'S STATUTORY DUTY

All maintained schools are required to provide daily collective worship for registered pupils (apart from those who have been withdrawn by their parents). At Melbury, collective worship usually involves the school coming together and participating in a daily assembly.

The Headteacher is responsible (under the School Standards and Framework Act 1998) for arranging the daily collective worship after consulting with the governing body. Daily collective worship must be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character. At Melbury, we normally base our assemblies on the teachings of Christ and the traditions of the Christian Church as well as celebrating the traditions, cultures and festivals of other faiths. We conduct our assemblies in a manner that is sensitive to the faiths and beliefs of all members of the school. We also hold assemblies that reflect the traditions of other religions that are represented in the school and the wider community.

ORGANISATION OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

We hold a daily act of collective worship, usually as part of the daily school assembly. We endeavour to ensure that the collective worship:

- is acceptable to the whole community, staff and pupils
- includes a variety of elements at different times
- involves the pupils

We conduct assemblies in a dignified and respectful way. We tell children that assembly time is a period of calm reflection and expect children to behave in an appropriate way. We ask them to listen carefully and be thoughtful. We create an appropriate atmosphere to focus the attention of the children.

The assemblies are normally conducted by the Headteacher, or other members of staff, but local clergy or other representatives of local religious groups may be invited to participate.

We take the themes of our assemblies from:

- The traditions of the Christian faith,
- We observe the festivals and mark the events of the Christian calendar.
- Topics that promote British Values
- Stories from other religions
- Topics that we teach as part of the school curriculum

- Learning characteristics.

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.

Parents and carers are invited to attend achievement assemblies, gold star assemblies, class assemblies and those for specific events such as harvest and Christmas. Whenever possible we hold a whole school service at the local church at Christmas and Easter to which families are also invited. We encourage their attendance, as this promotes community spirit, and shows the school and home working together in support of the children's achievements.

Governors are also invited to attend assemblies and their attendance is always welcome.

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 school keeps a record of all children who have been withdrawn from collective worship.

MONITORING AND REVIEW

We assess the implementation and effectiveness of collective worship annually. The policy is reviewed every three years or earlier if considered necessary.