

WORSHIP POLICY

**General Principle**

Collective worship at Meole Brace C of E Primary School and Nursery plays an important part in the life of our community. It offers the whole school opportunities to experience Christian Worship and reflects the values upon which the education is based. It is set within the context of the community of our school which aims to nurture self-esteem, tolerance, compassion, empathy and understanding and affirms every individual's unique contribution, regardless of age, sex, ability, background or religion.

**Legal Requirements**

The Headteacher and Foundation Governors have responsibility for ensuring that daily acts of worship are consistent with the principles and practices of the Church of England, as established by the trust deeds and foundation of the school. We note that worship needs to be appropriate to the age, aptitude and family backgrounds of the pupils. We recognise the right of withdrawal from worship for pupils (at the request of parents and carers) and for staff, but currently enjoy the full support of the whole community.

**Aims of Collective Worship**

We aim to:-

- Promote the spiritual development and response of pupils
- Foster reflection, meditation, prayer and silence,
- Create an atmosphere in which conversation about God is both normal and natural
- Foster empathy and imagination
- Explore and enjoy praise, prayer and the rituals of Christianity
- Affirm the values and beliefs of the Christian faith
- Introduce children to the person of Jesus
- Enable pupils to reflect on the experiences of Christians
- Foster and value a search for a faith to live by
- Learn about and reflect upon Christian teaching, Biblical material and Christian festivals
- Worship together rather than apart
- Provide an appropriate setting for worship, using resources which will help to create a spiritual focus

**Aims for Assembly**

We aim to:-

- Recognise the beliefs and cultures of others, particularly those who may be represented in the school community
- To develop a sense of community and shared values
- To consider the needs of others and to foster charitable works

- To be challenging and inspiring
- To celebrate the highest achievements of the human spirit
- To celebrate achievements of members of the school that are held to be of worth
- To foster a thought provoking atmosphere allowing for spiritual reflection and response

### **Management of Collective Worship**

The headteacher co-ordinates worship and has responsibility for managing this area of school life on a day to day basis. Planning and records of worship are kept in the school's worship folder and in the weekly Staff Diary.

For the majority of the time worship is led by the headteacher or the Church Team, through the delivery of "Open the Book" and special worship events. We recognise that no worship plan can be entirely pre-planned. We believe that if an occasion arises when it is important spiritually to focus on the immediate, so that pupils develop an awareness of the way in which the spiritual transcends all our experience, then we should do so.

Worship normally takes place in either of the school's halls, but may be held in other suitable locations such as in classrooms or outside. In addition the school worships in church at Harvest, Christmas and Easter. Our leavers' concert concludes with a short act of worship. Parents and parishioners are invited on these occasions.

Visitors are invited to lead our worship when appropriate.

Resources for worship and RE are kept in KS1 hall and the headteacher's office.

Monitoring and evaluation of collective worship and its impact on the pupils is an on-going process involving all stakeholders.

Our children participate in the services offered at the Holy Trinity Church, Meole Brace, such as the Crib Service and Harvest Service.

Parents will be kept informed of worship themes and invited to special times of worship through school newsletters.

### **Right to withdrawal**

At Meole Brace C of E Primary School and Nursery we wish to be an inclusive community but recognise that parents have the legal right to withdraw their children from religious education or collective worship on the grounds of conscience, without giving a reason. Parents wishing to exercise this right are asked to write to the headteacher who will then invite the parents into school to discuss their concerns, clarify the nature of the RE and worship provided by the school and set out the options open to the parents as set out in education law.

However, the right of withdrawal does not extend to other areas of the curriculum when, as may happen on occasion, spontaneous questions on religious matters are raised by pupils or there are issues related to religion that arise in other subjects. Where a pupil is withdrawn from RE and do not take part in alternative religious education they will be supervised by an appropriate member of staff whilst doing

work set by their parents which will seek to further their knowledge and understanding of their parents beliefs and values.

### Plans for developments in collective worship

Worship themes are planned on the basis of a two year programme.

Christian symbols around the school will continue to be changed according to work covered in RE, so that they continue to be a source of interest and comment.

Pupils respond actively and thoughtfully in worship and assembly, and are encouraged to take an active part in worship, to encourage their personal spiritual independence.

### Current Practice

The pattern for worship each week is as follows:-

	Time	Leader	Content
Monday	10.40 - 11.00am	Headteacher	Whole school using a theme
Tuesday	10.40 - 11.00am	Deputy Headteacher	Whole School using a theme
Wednesday	10.40 - 11.00am	Church Team	Open the Book
Thursday	10.40 - 11.00am	Teachers	Whole school Songs of Praise
Friday	10.40 - 11.00am	Headteacher	Whole School Sharing Assembly

Agreed by staff

Date: December 2014

Agreed by the curriculum committee

Date:

Agreed by governors

Date:

To be reviewed

Date: March 2015