



Collective Worship Policy

Mission Grove Primary School

This Policy has been written for and adopted by the Governing Body of Mission Grove Primary School.

VISION STATEMENT

For the children at Mission Grove to become well rounded individuals who have drive, passion and the confidence to do their best. Who leave with the skills to succeed and flourish in life. Staff have high expectations of themselves and others and are reflective practitioners. Mission Grove provides security, opportunities and enjoyment for all.

Approved by Governing Body

Date : March 2018

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

Aims and purpose

1.1 The aims and purpose of collective worship are:

- 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;
- to provide an opportunity for the children to worship.

2 Collective worship

2.1 Collective worship involves all members of the school coming together and participating in an assembly. We expect everyone to take an active part in the assembly. We understand worship to be a special act or occasion whose purpose is to show reverence to God.

2.2 In line with the Education Act 1996, which states that collective worship should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character', our assemblies, where appropriate, are based on the traditions of the Christian Church. However, we conduct our assemblies in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs of all members of the school.

2.3 Our assemblies reflect all religious traditions that are represented in the school and the wider community.

3 Organisation of collective worship

3.1 We hold a daily act of collective worship in our school. This forms part of daily assembly, which are normally held separately for the Years 1 and 2 and Years 3, 4, 5 and 6.

3.2 We conduct assemblies in a dignified and respectful way. We tell children that assembly 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 and to listen carefully to the teachings. We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music and sometimes candles or other objects that act as a focal point for the attention of the children.

3.3 The head teacher or other members of staff normally conduct assemblies, but sometimes local clergy or other representatives of local religious groups conduct them instead.

3.4 We take the themes of some of our assemblies from the traditions of the Christian faith and we reflect the festivals and events of the Christian calendar. Sometimes the themes of our assemblies reflect and build on topics that we teach as part of the school curriculum. We plan our assemblies as part of a series of themes.

3.5 Our assemblies reflect the achievements and learning of the children. We encourage the children to participate in assemblies by showing their work to the other children and raising issues that they have discussed in their classes. Assemblies offer an opportunity to acknowledge and reward children for their achievements both in and out of schools. They play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school, which is that all children are valued and all achievements are recognised. Mission Grove Primary School is a successful school and we shall celebrate the successes of all the children in assemblies.

3.6 We invite parents to assemblies if their children are involved in a performance of some kind (e.g. class assembly). This is a practical demonstration of the way the home and the school work together to support the achievements of our children.

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

4 Right of withdrawal

4.1 We expect all children to attend assembly. However, any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from attending religious worship and the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during the period concerned. Parents do not have to explain or give reasons for this. This complies with the 1944 Education Act and was restated in the 1988 Education Reform Act and the Education Act 1996.

4.2 The Head teacher keeps a record of all children who withdraw from collective worship.

5 Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development

Section 78 (1) of the 2002 Education Act states that all pupils should follow a balanced and broadly based curriculum which 'promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, social, mental and physical development of pupils and of society, and prepares pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of later life'. Learning about and from religions and beliefs, through the distinct knowledge, understanding and skills contained in RE within a broad-based curriculum, is essential to achieving these aims. Exploring the concepts of religion and belief and their roles in the spiritual, moral and cultural lives of people in a diverse society helps individuals develop moral awareness and social understanding.

6 Monitoring and review

6.1 It is the role of a named school governor with responsibility for religious education and collective worship to monitor the policy and practice of collective worship. The governor concerned liaises with the Head teacher before reporting to the governors on religious education and collective worship.

Monitoring and reviewing the Policy

This policy will be reviewed every three years thereafter, and relevant adjustments made as appropriate.