



Collective Acts of Worship

Introduction

At Mornington, we aim to provide the opportunity for pupils to explore their own beliefs, consider spiritual and moral issues and to develop their community spirit. Collective worship is a time when our pupils meet together in order to consider and reflect on common concerns, issues and interests. It offers all pupils an opportunity to worship through engaging in relevant, meaningful experiences and provides opportunities for the pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

Aims of Collective Worship

It is our aim that collective worship is a time when the school community can:

- Develop a sense of awe and wonder about the world
- Consider spiritual and moral issues
- Consider British Values and how these are important in school and everyday life
- Affirm positive values, such as respect and honesty
- Encourage responsibility for making personal decisions
- Enable children to explore their own beliefs
- Celebrate achievement and special occasions
- Explore together the world in which we live

Under the Education Act 1996, all schools must provide daily collective worship for all registered pupils. We conduct our collective worship in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs of all members of the school. We also hold collective worship opportunities that reflect other religious traditions, which are represented in the school and the wider community.

We regard collective worship as a special time and expect children to behave and respond in an appropriate way. Included in collective worship could be times of being thoughtful, listening carefully and participating in quiet reflection and songs.

The Organisation of Collective Worship

We take the themes of our assemblies from the traditions of the Christian faith and other world religions, which reflect the festivals and events of the key world religions. Themes for assembly are arranged termly and take into account special festivals as they arise. Members of staff normally conduct collective worship, but sometimes, local clergy, representatives of local religious groups or members of the school community conduct them instead. Assemblies take place in Key Stage groups.

Our Friday SHINE assemblies reflect our School Vision the achievements and learning of the children. These assemblies offer an opportunity to acknowledge and reward children who have demonstrated our vision of 'Successful, Hard- working, Independent, Never give up and Enthusiastic.'

Each half term we invite parents of the pupils who have been awarded as the Star of the half term to an assembly to promote the community spirit of the school and is a practical demonstration of the way the home and the schoolwork together to support the achievements of our children.

Right of withdrawal

We expect all children to attend assembly and collective worship times. 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.

Equal opportunities

At Mornington, collective worship will be all- inclusive regardless of gender, ethnicity, disability, religion or belief.

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