

NEW MILTON INFANT SCHOOL



Collective Worship Policy

School name	New Milton Infant School
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Name of responsible Manager/Headteacher	Amy Wake
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New Milton Infant School enhances children's spiritual well-being through Collective Worship. Our Collective Worship provision meets statutory guidance as well as providing children with space and time to stop and think and be reflective. We feel that our school should reflect its staff, pupils and their families. Our Collective Worship acknowledges important times for those in our community as well as supporting our children in their spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development. Links to British Values are also made discreetly within our provision. Where possible, visitors are invited into our school to raise the profile of Collective Worship by providing children with an experience that differs from their everyday experiences.

1. What do we mean by 'worship'?

Worship has a wide range of meanings and forms of expression. It is a reflection on life, values and experiences, as well as reflecting religiously. At New Milton Infant School, the values explored in our collective worship will be broadly Christian in nature and provide children with an awareness of the ways in which the Christian faith influences aspects of life. Though our chosen themes will be broadly Christian, they will not be exclusively Christian (e.g. love, respect, stewardship, community, honesty, hope). Collective Worship plays a significant role in children's spiritual development and their awareness and understanding of religion and beliefs. Children will celebrate other faiths in our provision. However, children will not directly participate in the worship of any faith.

2. Structure of a Collective Worship session

Each week our Collective Worship will have an overarching theme that is broadly Christian in nature. These themes will be planned carefully so the majority of acts of collective worship that week will link back to the theme. This reduces children's cognitive overload and helps

them gain a better understanding of the intended theme. Set PowerPoint slides are used during each session of worship to support consistency across the sessions.

Our Collective Worship sessions will follow the structure below:

- **Gathering** – Children will come together as a whole-school or in smaller groups to worship. A tone of reverence is created to remind children that the occasion is a special event outside of their everyday experiences.
- **Message** – Reference will be made to the overarching value for that week and how that value links to our school community. A message linking to the value e.g. 'love' or 'honesty' will then be conveyed to the children in the form of a speaker presentation, drama, story, poem or song.
- **Reflection and Response** – Children will be invited to reflect on the given message, supported by a pondering question and example responses. Response to the message can be given through silent contemplation, optional prayer and peer and group discussion.
- **Take-away challenge** – Children will be asked to think of the choices they could make following what they have learnt during the session. This part of the session will support the children in becoming better local and global citizens.

3. Current Practice

Our weekly Collective Worship Provision will have a different general focus during each day of the week. Though the term 'assembly' is used, each daily act of worship below will follow the overarching theme where appropriate and the above structure. When the overarching theme is not followed, a new theme that is broadly Christian in nature will be referred to:

Our daily Collective Worship sessions will have one of the following focuses:	British Values assemblies
	Assemblies focusing on a school Aspiration.
	Celebrating special festivals of the different faiths within our school community or a values-based assembly.
	Christian-based assembly, often sharing a Bible story.
	Singing, reading or well-being assembly
	Class assemblies

Parents/Carers will be provided with a collective worship timetable each half term via the school website.

4. Right to Withdraw

At New Milton Infant School we show sensitivity towards the personal faiths of our school community and wish for all of our staff and children to participate in our Collective Worship. The act of prayer is introduced with sensitivity and children are not required to say or affirm prayers they do not believe. Our singing assemblies usually do not include hymns and messages from the bible are presented in the form of a story or drama.

A parent/carer has the right to withdraw their child (wholly or partly) from collective worship in school. They can do so by speaking to the school office or their child's class teacher. We encourage parents to read the above policy carefully and ask for further information about Collective Worship before choosing to remove their child. However, we will fully respect this decision if made.

5. Monitoring, Evaluation and Review.

It is the role of the Governing Body, Headteacher and Collective Worship Leader to review the policy and practice of Collective Worship in our school. The school will review this policy every year and report on its implementation and effectiveness to the Governing Body.

This policy will be promoted and implemented through the school by the Religious Education Leader. The Religious Education Leader will also provide support and advice to parents if needed.