



COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY 2021-23

Effective Date: June 2018

Last Reviewed: June 2021

Reviewed by: Miss K Hayward

Next Review Date: June 2023

PRINCIPLES:

Moggerhanger Primary School believes that collective worship supports and strengthens every aspect of life, which includes British Values in developing the whole child; spiritually, morally, socially, culturally and intellectually. We value this time in the school structure for the opportunity it gives students to develop a reflective approach to life and the ability to express their reflections in an appropriate manner.

It is a legal requirement that all registered school age students take part in an act of worship each day. These acts of worship must be “wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian Character” for the majority of the time. They must also be “appropriate, having regard to the ages, aptitudes and family backgrounds of the students which are based around the schools care values, in form time and assemblies”.

Families who send their children to our school are from different nationalities and faiths. Some practice their chosen religions others do not. In addition, there are children who are from non-religious backgrounds. We recognise that in asking our children to worship we have to consider the background that our children come from and it is therefore not the practice of this school to preach to or convert the children. The faith background of both the staff and the child’s family is respected at all times.

AIMS:

Through our collective worship we aim to provide a caring and supportive environment for children to:

- Become increasingly aware of themselves as individuals and groups within the school and wider community
- Grow in understanding of the feelings of the other people in everyday situations and beliefs.
- Explore the language which people use to express their feelings
- Deepen their sense of wonder about the world around them
- Grow in confidence when making a presentation to the group or whole school
- Respond freely to religious and/or spiritual stimulus
- Acknowledge diversity and affirm each person’s life stance, whether it be religious or not
- Mark celebrations of the major festivals of Christianity and of other faiths
- Access topical matters from the news or the locality
- Access literature with implicit or explicit religious teaching
- Enjoy an appreciation of the natural world and human activity
- Enjoy the use of music

PRACTICE:

At Moggerhanger Primary School we combine our acts of worship with assemblies helping to ensure that worship takes place within a broad educational framework. Assemblies are held twice a week where every pupil in the school is required to attend. In addition, class teachers are required to prompt students within their class to reflect on their thoughts and feelings, encourage students to participate in assembly presentations when appropriate.

Members of the Senior Leadership team and staff lead the assemblies each week. Students are encouraged to take an active part in both planning and leading in collective worship at calendared times of the year.

Assemblies are calendared throughout the year around which encompass some religious festivals, known national or international events, and aspects taken from the school calendar, these are published on the whole school calendar.

Please see Assemblies’ policy.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- The Executive Principal and Deputy Headteacher are responsible (under the School Standards and Framework Act 1998) for Collective Worship Policies and guidelines
- The Executive Principal, Deputy Headteacher and Senior Leadership team are responsible for planning the calendar at the beginning of every academic year, this is discussed with the Senior Leadership team
- Parents/guardians of a student have a right to withdraw their child from collective worship. If a parent asks for their child to be wholly or partly excused from attending collective worship at the school, the school must comply unless the request is withdrawn. Any parent/guardian who wishes to exercise this right should consult the Principal
- All class teachers follow a set programme to allow students to reflect on their thoughts and feelings, as well as their values, throughout the week.