

Collective Worship Policy

Together, we **CARE!**



"Be kind and loving to each other".

Ephesians 4:32 (ICB)

Mepal & Witcham Primary School
a part of Ely Diocese Multi Academy Trust

Approved by the Governing Body: *Joy Walker*

Signed: Mr C Snuggs

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1. Aims

The government requires all schools to provide an act of Collective Worship. At Mepal & Witcham, we acknowledge that our school community is not solely a 'worshipping community' in the same sense as a local church. We provide daily acts of Collective Worship, which we believe help children understand some of the features of worship in a believing Christian community. Our objectives are to give children the opportunity to the following:

- Think about how they see themselves and how they see and treat others.
- Encounter a variety of Christian beliefs and practices.
- Have time and space for stillness, reflection and prayer.
- Develop a growing awareness of the concept of Spirituality
- Respond to beauty, awe, wonder and joy.
- Respond to situations that are sad, and to empathise with those in unhappy situations.
- Respond to world events, as they affect ourselves and others, e.g., war, famine.
- Develop a sense of responsibility and commitment to our school community and begin to understand their place in a wider community of village, country and world.
- Affirm the aims and values of the school.
- Be involved and enjoy the experiences offered.

2. Legislation and guidance

This policy was written in consultation with staff and governors. It explains the policy for collective worship at this school and how we interpret the legislation set out by the government.

The 1988 Education Act stated that:

- All pupils must take part in a collective act of worship every day.
- The act of collective worship may be as a whole school or in different age groupings.
- It may happen at any time of the school day.
- It has to take place on school premises. (In an aided school the Governors can make arrangements for worship elsewhere on special occasions e.g. The local church. In a controlled school acts of worship may take place off school premises but these should be in addition to the statutory acts of collective worship on the premises).
- The Headteacher is responsible for ensuring the legal requirements for Collective Worship are met. (In aided or voluntary controlled schools, the responsibility for securing daily acts of worship lies with the governing body after consultation with the Headteacher).
- The character and content of collective worship in these schools continues to be determined by governing bodies.
- All staff, including the Headteacher, have the legal right to withdraw from the Act of Collective Worship. The Headteacher remains responsible for finding someone suitable to organise and lead the acts of worship.
- All parents have the right to withdraw their children from Collective Worship, wholly or partially. The school's responsibility for the child's health and safety is still paramount.

We recognise that in collective worship children and adults will be responding to the worship on

offer in different ways and at different levels; some will be passive observers, learning about worship but not participating in it; some will be 'at the threshold', interested in the process and participating in it but not full believers; for others the act of collective worship may be a time of real worship of God. It is the task of collective worship to provide a setting in which the integrity of those present is not compromised but in which everyone finds something positive for themselves.

3. Themes

The themes will be based around school and Christian values and include significant events in the Christian calendar. Each theme is introduced at the beginning of the week and developed daily throughout the week. A time for reflection and/or prayer is always included. Themes are based on those taken from the Ely Diocese support for schools website. Collective Worship takes place daily, and is given priority. Bible stories and teachings are incorporated into the theme plans and aim to promote good values, encourage responsibility to family, friends and community, and encourage reflection. A board in the school hall is dedicated to the week's theme and 'Big Question'.

A 'Big Question' is introduced each week which aims to help children develop their own world view and spirituality through deep reflection and thoughtful discussion.

4. Involvement of Pupils

Children are actively encouraged to be involved in Collective Worship. Collective Worship Leaders will be involved on a daily basis in the preparation and delivery of Collective Worship. Tasks will include:

- Preparing the hall for worship;
- Greeting the other children and adults as they arrive for worship;
- Leading singing;
- Leading prayers (and / or write their own).

All children will be encouraged to, but not forced to:

- Join in with singing and prayer;
- Act parts of the story (on occasion);
- Think and reflect on the themes discussed;
- Be involved in the Bishops Lent Challenge.

5. The Environment

The school hall is usually used for collective worship though worship takes place once a week in classrooms. In the hall, there is a special table which the children face, which is dedicated to Collective Worship and includes candles, a Bible and a cross.

Visual aids (which includes the presentation screen) may be used to assist with reflection and presentation of the theme.

Collective worship tends to be scheduled at the end of the day, to bring the whole school together, reflecting on the day spent giving time and thanks to each other.

6. Visitors including links with the Church

Visitors are regularly welcomed into Collective Worship.



Parents are invited to celebrate a range of acts of Collective Worship on a regular basis.

These include the following:

- Autumn: Harvest, Remembrance, Christingle, Christmas Service and the nativity play.
- Spring: Lent and Easter Service.
- Summer: End of year Service.

Although many of our collective workshops are carried out in school due to space, we do work with the local church to run some of our sessions there.

We are passionate about working closely with our local community and parish, and welcome faith leaders to lead us through a service. Gen-R8 visit half termly delivering assemblies based on bible stories.

7. Withdrawal from Collective Worship

Parents have the right to withdraw their child from the daily act of collective worship if they wish. If a parent asks for a child to be withdrawn from Collective Worship, the school will exercise its duty of care and at first, will welcome discussions to understand and support the families/ children. The school is not responsible for providing alternative worship arrangements.

8. Resources

- The Ely Diocese Website. Support for Schools
- A range of Collective Worship books are available in school.
- Christian artefacts and resources are in a box in the store cupboard.
- There are a number of websites available for ideas and information.
- The resource centre at the Diocese of Ely has a vast range of resources.

9. Evaluation of Collective Worship

The Local Governing Body regularly monitor the effectiveness and impact of Collective Worship, through information gathered from various sources:

- Talking to Pupils.
- Observations.
- Participation in acts of Collective Worship.

10. Link to other policies

This document links to the following policies:

- RE policy
- Spirituality policy.