

Mountjoy School

Collective Worship Policy

March 2022



In accordance with Article 14 of the Convention of the Rights of the Child.

This is a Dorset Council Policy
Reviewed by: Senior Leadership Team

Date: **March 2022**
Date of next review: **March 2023**

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

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Introduction

At Mountjoy we believe that Collective Worship plays a very important role in the life of our school. It is an opportunity to celebrate all aspects of school life, to support our curriculum and to provide an opportunity for stillness and reflection in what is often a very busy, active day. It allows pupils consider spiritual and moral issues and to explore their own beliefs. It encourages participation and response, whether through active involvement in the presentation of worship or through listening to and joining in the worship offered. It helps us understand life in our own communities and those in other countries.

Aims

The main aims of Collective Worship at Mountjoy School are as follows:

- To provide our children with regular opportunities for stillness and reflection
- To promote children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development
- To celebrate the values and worth of the school community and all who belong in it including the sharing of the gifts and talents of our children
- To help children develop an understanding both of the nature and language of worship
- To help children develop respect and sensitivity to the beliefs and values of others
- To support the broader curriculum through the use of art, music, dance, story, drama and other visual and oral means of communication
- To expose our pupils to a wide range of different beliefs so that they can understand the world around them from others' perspectives and form their own beliefs.

The Legal Position

The law on compulsory collective worship was first introduced by Section 25 of the 1944 Education Act. The legislation was subsequently developed by the Education Reform Act 1988, by Chapter III of the Education Act 1996, and, most recently, by the School Standards and Framework Act 1998. The 1988 Education Reform Act states that Collective Worship must be on a daily basis for all registered pupils. Furthermore, acts of worship "*must be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character, i.e. reflect the broad traditions of Christian belief*".

Parents do have, of course, the right of withdrawal from Collective Worship. Parents who have any concerns about the provision and practice of our Collective Worship are strongly encouraged to contact the Head Teacher.

Visitors play an important part in the life of our school and we are fortunate to receive visits from the local Clergy who contribute to our worship on a regular basis and at the major Christian Festivals. We may record our acts of worship to inform our learning and plan for further developments.

Context of Collective Worship

Each Class partakes in an act of 'Reflection and Celebration' at the end of the day.

Pupils are encouraged to show consideration, offer support and reflect on theirs and other's days.

Restriction to group gatherings permitting, the whole school joins together weekly and at certain key points in the year, to worship and celebrate. Primary and Secondary departments may have additional assemblies.