

Mere Brow C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL

A Policy for Collective Worship 2024-2025



“At Mere Brow, School Worship is a shared activity which gives expression to the living relationship that exists between God and the whole school community.”

Philosophy

In this Church of England Voluntary Aided School, Collective Worship is in conformity with the rites, practices and doctrines of the Church of England as laid down in the Trust Deed.

The school’s ethos statement is:

Recognizing its historic foundation, the school will preserve and develop its religious character in accordance with the principles of the Church at parish and diocesan level.

The school aims to serve its community by providing education of the highest quality within the context of Christian belief and practice. It encourages an understanding of the meaning and significance of faith and promotes Christian values through the experience it offers all its pupils.

The school’s Trust Deed states:

In accordance with The School Standards and Framework Act, 1998, section 69 (4) and schedule 20, section 5, the Collective Worship provided in the school, in the absence of a Trust Deed is in accordance with designation of the religious character of the school by the Secretary of State.

Collective Worship contributes to our **Mission Statement** and the **aims** and **ethos** of the school and therefore to the Christian Education we provide. It also contributes to the celebration and exploration of the values of our school.

We consider our Collective Worship to be at the heart of our school life and the Governors see it as an essential part of all pupils’ education. As such we are concerned to resource it properly and ensure that it is of the highest standard. The worship and prayer life of the school is not limited to the legally required daily acts of worship. Opportunities will be taken to use prayer and reflection in the curriculum generally and at the end of afternoon sessions as well as graces before lunch.

Forms of worship within the Church of England differ and these differences enable us to provide a varied range of approaches to worship whilst remaining true to our Trust Deeds. As well as drawing on our denominational heritage, we also occasionally expect to draw on the varied practices in the worldwide Christian Church.

Whatever the approaches, we expect that pupils will be introduced to the key beliefs and aspects of the Christian faith and will be helped to explore them.

These would include:

The nature of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit, the nature of human beings as children of God are part of His creation and though sinful destined for eternal life.

Jesus as the Son of God who, through His life death and resurrection broke the power of evil and restored humanity's relationship with God, central values of forgiveness, goodness, compassion and charity, the central place of the Bible as a source of knowledge about God and Jesus and as a source of inspiration and guidance, the importance of prayer and different forms of prayer, the central symbols of Christianity, the cycle of the Church year.

Worship at Mere Brow gives the whole school community the opportunity to praise and give thanks to God together and to share quiet moments of reflection in a busy school day giving expression to the living relationship that exists between God and our whole school community.

During the Church's year, we share in the Worship at the church with the local community and the local community is welcomed to worship in church with the school during the school year.

The school meets together for Collective Worship but there will be times when we assemble for other purposes, e.g. important notices and announcements. Such "assembly" times are legally distinct from Collective Worship and parents' rights to withdraw their children do not apply.

Worship in the school, while reflecting our denomination, will take into account the levels of development of pupils.

The provision of collective worship conforms to Diocesan policy.

School worship and the delivery of the religious Education curriculum are kept mainly separate but elements of each follow the Christian year and so, at certain times during the year, will be interconnected.

Responsibility for the policy

This Policy for Worship at Mere Brow CE was first approved by the Governing Body in November 2016 and has been reviewed and amended since then.

The policy was reviewed after consultation with the Head teacher, the teaching staff and the incumbent.

The Head teacher, is the person responsible for the implementation of the policy in the school.

The Aims of the Policy

- To contribute to the Mission Statement and the aims of the school.
- To create an environment in which children and adults have the opportunity to worship.
- To develop knowledge and understanding of the Christian faith.
- To develop links with the local church and to introduce pupils to the worship heritage of the Church of England.
- To worship God through Jesus Christ.
- To contribute to the spiritual and moral development of pupils.
- To experience and understand the central place of the Eucharist in the life of the Church.
- To make worship open and accessible to all pupils.

Organisation and delivery

Though worship is not designated as curriculum time under current regulations, it is a major aspect of the whole curriculum provided by the school. Worship is a vehicle for exploring aspects of the National Curriculum and Religious Education and frequently involves teaching and learning activities such as discussion and question and answer. Pupils may be read to, instructed, asked to listen to a reading or to think about and respond to a stimulus such as a work of art.

Worship is also concerned with the celebration of the curriculum, with pupils displaying or recounting detail of what they have learnt.

Frequently pupils are involved in leading worship through story, drama and music.

When any such activities occur, they may be counted as teaching time even though they take place within worship. It is appropriate that, in a Church school, worship and learning are seen as a seamless whole, even though, for purposes of recording teaching time, we distinguish between the two.

Parents, Governors and friends are invited to the school's special Worship times for example Messy or Forest Church , weekly celebrations Harvest in Church , Christmas, Easter, Remembrance Day at Church and the Leavers Service at the end of the school year.

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Worship is also concerned with the celebration of the curriculum, with pupils displaying or recounting details of what they have learnt. Pupils are regularly involved in leading worship.

When any such activities occur, they may be counted as teaching time even though they take place within worship. It is appropriate that, in a church school, worship and learning is seen as a

seamless whole even though, for the purposes of recording teaching time we distinguish between the two.

The school is fortunate that there is already a worshipful atmosphere within the building but we strive to build on that atmosphere by using music and silence and moving in and out of the church in an appropriate way. The children take an active part in the preparation of the church for our acts of worship.

Arrangements for the withdrawal of children from the acts of worship are made within school when a request from a parent has been made.

Children will not be withdrawn from acts of worship for extra tuition, music lessons or anything similar because we place great importance on the worshipping life of the school.

The pattern of Worship in the school has been agreed and approved by the Governing Body and is set out on the School's website.

Content and Approaches

The range of the content used during our acts of worship is listed on the School's website. Although there are themes for each week during the school year, the Church year will also be observed and a bank of acts of worship, which may be needed for special times, is being compiled.

Although weekly Worship is planned, we respect and allow the need for spontaneity. The acts of worship will be adult and/or pupil led. And may include the telling of stories, role play, the use of visual aids, the playing of special music and elements of drama.

Resources

Our main resource is the parish church.

The school development plan details the level of resourcing from year to year.

The school is currently listing the materials and books that are available for worship. The materials are kept in the library and are available to teaching staff and to the pupils.

The School is also compiling an Outdoor Worship library, which will contain lists of materials, lists of worship books, religious symbols and candles.

Consultation, Management, Recording and Review of Impact

The Head teacher is the person responsible for the management of Collective Worship in the school.

Worship is planned and co-ordinated at the beginning of each term. Pupils are asked to organise acts of worship. The Vicar leads an act of worship each week in School .Plans for Worship can be found on our website.

The Head teacher will report to the Governing Body about aspects of worship in the termly report to the Governors.

The legal requirements for collective worship in our school

Collective worship in Church schools is governed by both the 1944 and the 1988 Education Acts as well as by the Trust Deed of the School. The Collective Worship provided by the school must be in accordance with the Trust Deed.

Daily Collective Worship has to be provided for every pupil. This worship may take place in various groupings and may take place at any time during the school day.

Parents may withdraw their children from Collective Worship and this provision and its limitations are indicated in the School Prospectus.

The Worship and Religious Education provided by the school is in accordance with the Church of England Foundation. This Foundation is also reflected in the curriculum and the whole life of the school community. Since the conduct of the school as a whole reflects the Church of England ethos, removal of pupils from Worship and Religious Education cannot insulate pupils from the religious life of the school.

Complaints about the provision of Collective Worship

It is hoped that any complaint will be resolved informally by the Head teacher, in consultation with the Governors and possibly with advice from Diocese. However, if the complaint is not satisfactorily resolved, then formal procedures will be instituted and the matter will be adjudicated by a specially constituted sub-committee of the Diocesan Board of Education acting on behalf of the Bishop of the Diocese.

Signed:

Date:

Review Date: