



Threemilestone School **Policy For The Collective Act Of Worship** **(Assembly Policy)**

Safeguarding

Threemilestone School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all children.

We expect all our team members to share this commitment.

Context/Introduction

Threemilestone School serves a community in a mostly nominal Christian area of the South–West of England. However, our school community is made up of a range of religious denominations which include Muslims, Hindus, Jews, Christians and those without any faith.

Pupils encounter influences of a larger community and wider world, through family and personal contacts, the media, and from their education. It is a part of the aims of the school to offer a wide ranging education, to prepare pupils for life not only in their own community but in a wider world.

Legal Requirements

(For details see School Standard and Framework Act 1998 and Circular 1/94)

- All pupils must take part in a daily act of collective worship, unless they have been withdrawn from it by their parents.
- Parents have the right to withdraw their children from collective worship.

- As Threemilestone School is a LA maintained school, collective worship must be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character', that is be within the broad traditions of Christian beliefs, on the majority of occasions.
- Collective worship must be non-denominational in county schools.

Aims of Collective Worship

Aims have been agreed with the governors to be the following:

- To enable children to develop a spiritual dimension in their lives.
- To teach children aspects of religion.
- To teach an awareness of, and respect for, the major world religions.
- To encourage an active part in worship.
- To enable pupils to come to terms with their own beliefs, values and commitments, and with those of others.
- To promote the spiritual, moral, social and cultural developments of pupils.

Worship is understood as an act of collective worship in a LA maintained school and can be interpreted very openly and widely as an act which brings a school group to a point where they are able to make a shared, reflective response to a divine being, power, ideal or value of some worth, wholly or mainly within the broad traditions of Christian belief on the majority of occasions.

Collective worship is an essential element in the schools' promotion of the spiritual and moral development of pupils as required by ERA 1988.

Arrangements

A termly schedule of assembly themes is published for all staff to take note of.

Since there are not whole school assemblies each day, we have arranged a collective act of worship for the whole school on Wednesday and Fridays.

On a Monday the assembly theme relates to festivals, Bible stories and other key events. This assembly is held separately for key stage 2 and

key stage 1. The assembly is taken by Mrs Lee or a visiting speaker (regularly a local Church of England minister). Staff do not attend.

On Wednesdays the themes are either taken from the SEAL materials or our 'virtues' programme. This is led either by one class, a group of pupils, or Mrs Lee, the headteacher. Each class presents one class assembly a year. All teaching staff attend this assembly. At the beginning of each half term we use this assembly to introduce our new SEAL Theme for the half term.

School assemblies are never used as occasions to reprimand children, but may be used to remind them about something or to give out notices.

On Friday, it is our Celebration assembly where we announce the achievements both in and out of school.

On Tuesday and Thursday there is no formal school assembly. On Thursday mornings both KS1 and KS2 children have singing and hymn practice with a thought for the day. Staff do not attend singing unless they are involved in teaching it. Hymns are displayed on a screen for the children to see. Children are not forced to sing the hymns which are displayed.

On Tuesdays there are class assemblies that are carried out in individual classrooms. These are used to follow up the SEAL theme for the half term. Planning for these is found in year group planning on the staff shared area.

We expect the children to enter the hall quietly and sit in silence at the beginning of assembly. Individual class teachers are expected to ensure this for their own class. We do not however, make the children uncomfortable by rigidly enforcing this, and we recognise that on some occasions (particularly class assembly days) the children may be excited and silence may be difficult to achieve while they are coming in.

Special events are marked by special assemblies for major Christian festivals, (Harvest festival, Christmas celebration and Easter service). Parents and friends of the school from the local community may be invited to take part in these special services which are more elaborate than the daily acts of worship.

Recording

All acts of worship are recorded in the School Diary noting the date, time, leader and theme. This record will be amended to indicate any

changes that took place. Classroom acts of collective worship are recorded within year group planning.