

Mountjoy School

Collective Worship Policy

March 2024



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

This is a Mountjoy School Policy
Reviewed by: Senior Leadership Team

Date: March 2024
Date of next review: March 2025

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 pupils 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 pupils
- To help pupils develop an understanding 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 to aid understanding of the world around them from others' perspectives and form their own beliefs.

The Legal Position

The legal statement of the requirements for collective worship (as distinct from assembly) are contained in Section 70 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998. Section 70 of the 1998 Act states that, subject to the parental right of excusal or other special arrangements, "...each pupil in attendance at a community, foundation or voluntary school shall on each school day take part in an act of collective worship." Parents who have any concerns about the provision and practice of our Collective Worship are strongly encouraged to contact the Headteacher.

Schedule 20 to the 1998 Act gives more detailed information on the worship requirements. It notes: "a single act of worship for all pupils or separate acts of worship for pupils in different age groups or in different school groups." A "school group" is defined as "any group in which pupils are taught or take part in other school activities". Parents do have the right of withdrawal from Collective Worship. The majority of acts of collective worship in any given school term should still be "wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character".

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

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.