



## Worship Policy

Approved by: Full governing body

Date: December 2019

Last reviewed on: November 2016

Next review due by: Autumn Term 2022

Chair of governor's signature

### Introduction

At Moulton School, the daily act of collective worship is viewed as an integral and important part of school life. It is a time where we come together to share our love of God celebrate our achievements together and to deepen pupils' understanding of our core values, individuality, community and responsibility. The worship of the school is based on promoting the Christian values which permeate the ethos of the school. As such, the contributions of staff, pupils, church clergy and other visitors are valued highly.

### Values Education

We change our focus value on a termly or half-termly basis, depending on the needs of our pupils. Each value is lined to one of our core values (Individuality, community and responsibility) We blend Christian teaching and values education in order to

create opportunities for children to develop physically, emotionally, personally, socially, mentally and intelligently, so that their self-esteem and well-being is sound and supported by ever growing emotional intelligence; leading to an understanding of their rights and responsibilities as young citizens. Each class has the current value displayed in their classrooms. Class and Key Stage assemblies and RE lessons will reflect on that value too.

### **Legal Requirements**

We acknowledge the legal requirement stated in the 1988 Education Reform Act 6 (1) and 9 (3), which states the need for each child to attend a daily act of worship either as a whole school, class or group. Parents have the legal right to withdraw their children from the act of worship either partially or wholly. Any parents wishing to do so should contact the Head teacher. Teachers also have the right to withdraw from leading and taking part in worship.

### **Organisation**

We aim to provide a variety of worship experiences for all the children. Our current schedule is as follows:

#### **Monday**

Whole school worship led by the Head teacher

#### **Tuesday**

Key Stage 1 collective worship  
Reception and key stage 1 worship through singing

#### **Wednesday**

Key stage 1 worship through singing  
Key Stage 2 collective worship

#### **Thursday**

Celebration of values assembly

#### **Friday**

Whole school worship led by Reverend Rosemary and a member of staff.

The assembly/worship should last approximately 15-20 minutes.

### **Planning, Content and Detail**

The themes for most whole-school collective worship reflect our values focus, the Church calendar, our school ethos and current events. It also aims to build pupils' cultural capital.

The worship usually begins with the children entering the hall accompanied by a piece of music. Sometimes music is chosen and or played by children on their own instruments.

The candle on the altar table is lit and the worship. The children are involved in the worship throughout and this finishes with a prayer. The candles are then blown out before any messages are given. This helps children to make a clear distinction between worship and assembly. The children then lead out as the music is played.

The Celebration assembly on Thursdays celebrates the children's achievements both in and outside school, led by a member of staff. Although this can and does happen on other assembly times, when appropriate. Normally, teachers choose members of their class to receive a special mention and certificate. Once the children have received a round of applause, a prayer is said and the children are dismissed. Achievements linked to the current Christian value is often recognised. Each Friday assembly starts with the children entering the room accompanied by a piece of music and candles may be lit if felt appropriate. This time together is always finished with a prayer before the children go back to their classes.

### **Prayer and Reflection**

Collective worship always includes a time of prayer and/or reflection, including hymn practice. A range of prayers is used including the Lord's Prayer, extempore prayers, prayers written by the children and others. They are introduced in an appropriate manner with a short time of quiet. At the beginning of the whole school worship led by the Head teacher or a member of staff, a time of reflection and quiet is encouraged by the lighting of a candle. A cross is also displayed above or on the altar table.

### **Other Faiths**

Although our worship reflects our Christian beliefs and values, we are committed to respecting each other's faith stance and culture, showing tolerance and understanding regardless of pupils' beliefs. The class-led acts of worship may portray other cultures and beliefs as they reflect the RE studied as part of the curriculum requirements.

### **Visits and visitors**

As part of the curriculum, Moulton School ensures that appropriate visits are made available for the children in order for them to have first-hand experiences and gain a greater understanding of various places of worship. Visitors to the school are welcomed and encouraged to share their experiences and knowledge – their role is to educate, not to evangelise. St Peter's Church is our most valuable and frequently used resource, with the whole school attending and contributing towards annual Harvest, Christmas and Easter Services.

### **Parents/Governors/Diocesan Liaison and Local Community Issues**

Children may be withdrawn from R.E. lessons at the wish of their parents. The Head teacher will ensure that suitable provision is made for such pupils.

The R.E. coordinator works closely with the Diocese, and this ensures an effective line of communication with the governing body.

### **Equal Opportunities and special needs issues**

All pupils, regardless of academic ability, age, gender and ethnic origin will have access to a wide range of appropriate activities to support their understanding of R.E. At each Key Stage, the teacher will draw from other religions as appropriate to acknowledge and celebrate the religious beliefs of the children within the class.