

Collective Worship Policy

At Monega, we follow Newham's Collective Worship SACRE guidelines for schools. The legal requirements for collective worship are laid down in the 1988 Education Reform Act and the Collective Worship Circular 1/94 (1993 – 1994). Following statutory requirements, we aim to:

'provide the opportunity for pupils to worship God, to consider spiritual and moral issues and to explore their own beliefs; to encourage participation and response, through listening to and joining in the worship offered; and to develop community spirit, promote a common ethos and shared values, and reinforce positive attitudes' (Collective Worship Circular 1/94, 1993 – 1994)

We are proud of the diversity of our school community and as such assemblies and acts of collective worship at Monega reflect and celebrate the traditions of the major world religions. Assemblies and acts of collective worship are therefore conducted in a manner that is sensitive to the faiths and beliefs of all members of the school community.

Assemblies also reflect the achievements and learning of the children. We encourage children to participate by holding achievement assemblies, phase and class assemblies; during which children can show their work and successes to others, and can raise issues that have discussed and debated in class. These assemblies provide an opportunity to reward and celebrate their achievements, both in and out of school. They also play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school through the 5 Cs and British Values.

Assemblies are regarded as a special time of calm reflection and are conducted accordingly. Children are expected to behave respectfully and thoughtfully throughout any assembly or act of collective worship.

Through Collective Worship, we aim to promote:

- Spiritual, moral, social, intellectual and cultural development;
- Provide an all-inclusive experience for all children;
- Provide an opportunity to build and reinforce community values;
- Reflect on and understand elements of life which are of value and worth;
- Provide opportunities for expressing shared experiences and interests and for celebrating special occasions and festivals together;
- Provide opportunities in which pupils interact with other year groups, staff and on occasions the wider community;
- Fulfil the statutory requirements of a daily act of collective worship for all pupils.

Through collective worship we aim to encourage and promote the opportunity for children to:

- Learn about life, each other, the community and the world they live in;
- Learn about and promote greater understanding, tolerance and respect for each other's cultures and beliefs;
- Help develop empathy, caring and sensitivity and a positive self-image;
- Celebrate in each other's successes and achievements through sharing work and ideas, thereby developing a sense of belonging to the school community;
- Develop a knowledge and understanding of the importance of religious stories and ideas found in Christianity and other major religions;
- Reflect upon the purpose and meaning of things;
- Appreciate and celebrate festivals within the school community;
- Encourage appropriate behaviour within specific social settings and gatherings and reflect on matters of right and wrong.

Collective Worship will not:

- Be insensitive to the cultural diversity of the school community;
- Expect children to behave in a way that undermines their personal and/or religious beliefs;
- Seek to preach or convert.