



**The Federation of North and
South Cowton Community
and Melsonby Methodist
Primary Schools**

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Nominated Member of Leadership Staff Responsible for the policy:	Helen Robinson (Headteacher)
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Vision

'Live Life in all its Fullness'

Our aim at Melsonby Methodist Primary School is to provide an education of the highest quality underpinned by our Christian ethos and values, based on the life and teachings of John Wesley, to children of all backgrounds and abilities.

We offer an education which aims to meet the needs of pupils both academically and in terms of spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. As a church school, we welcome children of all faiths and none but we ask that parents and children support our Christian values and ethos.

In the Bible, John 10 vs 10 tell us that Jesus said ***"I have come that they may have life in all its fullness."***

Life in all its fullness is about living a varied and full life - full of learning, growing, helping, reward, joy, excitement and caring for each other. At school, we aim to help each other to learn how to do this. It is not always easy to live life in this way and so we help each other with the challenges that come along the way.

John Wesley's challenging words help us to reflect upon what living life in all its fullness might look like. ***"Do all the good you can, By all the means you can, In all the ways you can, In all the places you can, At all the times you can, To all the people you can, As long as ever you can."***

Introduction

Melsonby Methodist Primary School is a voluntary controlled school with strong, well-established links with the Darlington and Teesdale Methodist Circuit which is part of the Darlington District of the Methodist Church.

Collective worship is central to the life of our school and we want it to be inspiring and transformational. It is given high priority and viewed as a special and important time of the day when the school family is invited to draw together in the presence of God.

Rationale

At Melsonby, our Collective Worship policy is underpinned by our Christian vision for all children, regardless of background and academic ability, ***'Live life in all its Fullness'***. Collective worship provides daily, creative opportunities to engage with the school's Christian vision and its associated values.

We endeavour to promote the spiritual development of our children in all areas of their school life. Collective worship, unlike an assembly involves gathering together to learn about and praise God. It encourages children to express feelings of worth and respect for themselves and others, our local community and our world as gifts from God.

Aims

Through Collective Worship, Melsonby aims to:

- Help pupils and adults to understand the diversity of Christian practice and tradition
- Encounter the teachings of Jesus and the Bible
- Share the teachings and life of John Wesley
- Help pupils and adults appreciate the relevance of faith in today's world

- Provide an atmosphere and environment that is conducive to worship
- Invite pupils and adults to worship God
- Reflect on Christian symbols
- Promote an understanding of the Christian year
- Support pupils and adults in developing an understanding of the Christian belief in the Trinitarian nature of God
- Reflect on values that are of a broadly Christian nature and on their own beliefs
- Develop a community spirit, a common ethos and shared values
- Consider spiritual and moral issues
- Respond to the worship offered
- Help pupils and adults grow spiritually through experiences of prayer, silent reflection and exploration of their inner self
- Celebrate the values, worth and achievements of our school community
- Celebrate British Values

Inclusive, Invitational, and Inspiring

Inclusive: Worship is collective in that it involves meeting, exploring, questioning, and responding to others and, for some, to God. At Melsonby, pupils, their families and other adults can expect to encounter worship that is inclusive of, and fully accessible to, all. Pupils and staff may come from homes of different faith backgrounds as well as of no faith background. Many pupils will naturally be at different stages of their spiritual journey during their time in school. Pupils are given the opportunity to think and ask questions. There is space to consent, and dissent: to participate and to stand back; and to consider. It is an expectation that care will be taken to ensure that the language used by those facilitating worship avoids assuming faith in all those participating, listening and watching. Collective worship will not be 'done to' but will involve meaningful contributions from the whole school community, including pupils. It is recognised that pupils will bring their own experience to worship. Inclusion requires pupil involvement in planning, leading and the evaluation of worship. Collective worship validates, embraces and celebrates all protected characteristics.

Invitational: Parents, pupils and adults can expect to encounter worship that is consistently invitational. There should be no compulsion to 'do anything'. Rather, worship should provide the opportunity to engage whilst allowing the freedom of those of different faiths and those who profess no religious faith to be present and to engage with integrity. Pupils and adults will always only be invited to pray if they wish to do so and should be invited to pray in their own way. Prayer should always be accompanied by the option to reflect.

Inspiring: Pupils and adults can expect the worship they encounter to be inspirational. Worship should be formational and transformational: it should enable pupils and adults to ask big questions about who we are and why we do what we do. It should motivate pupils and adults into action, into thinking differently, and into reflecting on their and the wider community's behaviour and actions. As a result of inspirational collective worship, they should be inspired to become courageous advocates of causes. It should encourage them to think searchingly about their faith, beliefs and/or philosophical convictions.

Festivals and Celebrations in Other World Faiths

At Melsonby, the children are taught about the main world faiths in accordance with the North Yorkshire Agreed Syllabus. We promote and encourage respect and understanding of the festival and traditions of the different faith communities in our country. The main world faith festivals are celebrated in Collective Worship and through a range of practical activities and celebrations.

Working with Our Churches

Wherever possible, the school will involve local clergy in leading of acts of worship. Representatives of the Methodist Church, lead acts of worship on a half termly basis. They also work with the school's R.E subject leader on a half termly basis to plan themes and events for the following term's worship.

Acts of Worship for major festivals such as Christmas, Easter and Ash Wednesday are celebrated at St James' Church in the village.

Links with our local Church are an important and valued part of school life. The Reverend and Subject Leader meet regularly to promote ideas, initiatives and opportunities to promote Church School links.

Parents and Families

Each class leads an act of worship once per half term. These assemblies are the children's interpretations of the termly worship theme or are based on a particular festival or celebration. In all cases, the inclusion of a prayer and song maintains a worship element. Parents and families are also invited to join any of our celebrations at the Churches, as well as our weekly and end of term services.

Developing staff expertise and knowledge: Confidence through professionalism

Parents, pupils and adults are entitled to be led in worship by those who have a secure understanding of the nature of collective worship in a Church school context and by those who are professional in their approach to working with pupils and adults from all faiths and none. Therefore, it should be a priority to build up the expertise of staff, pupils, clergy and other adults in facilitating collective worship. To do this the school will ensure the following.

- Worship leaders, including clergy, have access to regular training, primarily through local Methodist education teams.
- Pupil worship leaders are supported, encouraged and resourced to contribute meaningful acts of worship.
- Worship leaders, including clergy, have access to high quality and current resources.
- The governing body have robust systems in place to monitor the impact of worship effectively; this monitoring will include and meaningfully involve pupil voice. Those facilitating worship will have the opportunity to receive feedback and the hear the outcome of evaluation.
- Those from outside agencies and church groups invited into the school to facilitate worship should be trained and properly briefed about the school, its pupil context and the school's vision. They should be supported and monitored as part of the school's systems for the evaluation of the impact of worship.
- The headteacher is the named member of staff responsible for collective worship with responsibility for ensuring that appropriate policy and practice are in place and publicly available.

Content Planning and Evaluation

Collective worship is planned around a two-year cycle of 12 Christian values. The 'Roots and Fruits' resource is used to support this. Individual acts of worship are planned using 4 main elements;

1. **Welcome:** This includes creating an inclusive and special space where all feel welcome and are invited to prepare to draw close to God. A candle will be lit during this time.
2. **Learning:** Inspirational and thought-provoking learning about God and His world. This may be through a story, drama, poem, art etc.
3. **Reflection:** Opportunities are provided for all to reflect upon what God may be saying to us through our worship. This may be through use of questions, music, meditation or talk partners.
4. **Responding:** Pupils are invited to respond and be challenged and inspired to take action as a result of worshipping together. Multi-sensory prayers invite those present to draw close to God.

Each act of collective worship may include any of the following elements:

- How major world faiths celebrate special religious festivals;
- Presentation of Bible stories;
- Topical matters from the news or the locality linked to Christian values;
- Using literature with implicit or explicit religious teaching;
- Global awareness. Appreciation of the natural world and human activity;
- Appreciation of the talents, achievements and work of ourselves and others;
- Visitors encouraging children to take social action e.g; from charitable organisations;
- Prayer in different forms - formal, children's own, silence and meditation. These might include praise, seeking forgiveness, asking on behalf of self and others and quiet reflection;
- Use of music (as an introduction and conclusion, singing/praise);
- Use of appropriate artefacts and focal points (candles, cross, circle of friends etc.)
- Participation by the children.

Evaluation

Pupil evaluation: Most of the evaluation of collective worship is done by pupils. They record their thoughts and learning in a special floor book.

Worship leaders evaluate their own worship on an ongoing basis and this is discussed regularly during staff meeting time.

Organisation of Collective Worship

Collective Worship usually takes place in the school hall.

Each class takes in a special 'lit' (battery operated) candle from their classroom to be displayed on the prayer table at the front of the hall to represent us coming **"Together as one with God"**.

Each half term:

- A group of pupils plan and lead Worship based on the Christian value for the half term
- Member of the Church Community come in and lead an Open the book Worship

Day	Focus	Person Responsible for leading
Monday:	Christian Value of the half term linked to Bible Story	Schools Chaplain
Tuesday	World News - linked to Christian Values and British Values	School Staff or Methodist Minister
Wednesday	Christian Value linked to Roots and Fruits/ link to Awareness weeks	School staff
Thursday	Worship through music and song	School Staff
Friday	Christian Value linked to Roots and Fruits	School Staff

Legal Requirements

- The responsibility for organising Collective Worship lies with the Headteacher.
- Parents have the right to withdraw their children from Collective Worship and arrangements should be made with the Headteacher.
- All pupils will take part in a daily act of worship.
- Worship can be organised for the whole school or separate groups of pupils at any time during the school day. The groups may be Key Stage groups or any class groups in which children are taught.
- Worship at Melsonby will be of a "broadly Christian character" reflecting the traditions of Christian belief and having regard for the age, attitude and family background of pupils.

Melsonby Methodist Primary School
 Collective Worship Feedback
'Life in all its Fullness'

Date	
Class/Year group	
Focus/value	

How did worship express the school's vision?	
How was worship <i>Inclusive, Invitational, Inspiring?</i> (You can of course say it wasn't!)	Inclusive Invitational Inspiring
How engaging was worship for children and adults?	Children Adults
What opportunities were there to worship in a variety of ways (this will give a rounded picture over time)	Music Silence Singing Story Prayer Reflection Other
How did worship help pupils and adults appreciate relevance of faith in today's world and the teachings of Jesus and the Bible?	
What impact has worship had on shaping thoughts and behaviour of children and adults in your class?	
Are there any responses to the worship from the children or adults that you would like to share?	
What, in your opinion, could improve the experience of collective worship at school?	