



MARSHLANDS SCHOOL

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

Aims and purpose

The aims and purpose of our collective gatherings and worship are:

- to provide an opportunity for the children to worship God;
- to provide opportunities for pupils to learn and experience different religions;
- to enable children to consider spiritual and moral issues;
- to enable children to explore their own beliefs;
- to encourage participation and response;
- to develop in children a sense of community spirit;
- to celebrate achievement; to promote a common ethos with shared values and to reinforce positive attitudes;
- to teach children how to worship;

Collective Worship

- We understand worship to be a special act or occasion whose purpose is to show reverence to God. Collective worship involves all members of the school coming together and participating in an assembly. We expect everyone to take an active part in the assembly.
- In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act, which states that collective worship should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character', we normally base our assemblies on the teachings of Christ and traditions of the Christian Church. However, we conduct our assemblies in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs of all members of the school.
- While the majority of acts of worship in our school are Christian, we also hold assemblies that reflect other religious traditions that are represented in the school and the wider community.

Organisation of collective worship

- We hold regular acts of collective worship in our school. This forms part of afternoon assemblies, which are normally a whole school assembly, although sometimes we also hold separate Lower School and Upper School assemblies.
- We expect assemblies to be conducted in a respectable and suitable way. We regard it as a special time and expect children to behave in an appropriate way.
- We create a suitable atmosphere by using music and sometimes candles or other objects that act as a focal point for the attention of the children.
- We also use the opportunity of assemblies to reinforce achievements and celebrations.
- The headteacher or other members of staff normally conduct assemblies, but sometimes local clergy or other representatives of local religious groups conduct them instead.
- We take the themes of our assemblies from the traditions of the Christian faith and we often reflect the festivals and events of the Christian calendar as well as other faiths. Sometimes the themes of our assemblies reflect and build on topics that we teach as part of the school curriculum. This includes introducing pupils to the 'Music of the Month'.
- Our assemblies reflect the achievements and learning of the children. Once a week we celebrate together 'Pupil of the Week'. We encourage the children to participate in assemblies by showing their work to the other children and raising issues that they have discussed in their classes. Assemblies offer an opportunity to acknowledge and reward children for their achievements both in and out of schools. They play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school, which is that all children are valued and all achievements are recognised.
- We invite parents to assemblies and special celebrations and we encourage them to attend, as this promotes the community spirit of the school and is a practical demonstration of the way the home and school work together to support the achievements of our children.
- We welcome governors' attendance at our assemblies at any time.

Right of withdrawal

We expect all children to attend assembly. However, any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from attending religious worship and the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during the period concerned. Parents do not have to explain or give reasons for this. This complies with the 1944 Education Act and was restated in the 1988 Education Reform Act.

Adopted and agreed by the Governing Body on: 13/02/2017

Signed:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ian Kuford', written over a horizontal line.

Chair of Governors