



MARLBOROUGH PRIMARY SCHOOL AND NURSERY

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

Our Rationale

Marlborough Primary School takes an active approach towards the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of the learners in our care.

One of the strategies used is to provide regular and meaningful opportunities for collective worship. We acknowledge the importance of helping children to understand that the cultural, historical and social context of our nation and we recognise that some of the key features have been developed through a broadly Christian perspective. This is reflected in many of our traditions, art, music, language and festivals. To this extent the majority of collective worship experiences delivered to children are linked to broadly Christian characteristics.

In order to promote maximum participation and in recognition of the variety of ethnicities, languages, religious, non religious, social and cultural traditions of our learners and their families, the school applies a broad and flexible interpretation of The Education Reform Act 1988

The Meaning of Collective Worship

This Policy recognises both the legal responsibility to provide a daily act of collective worship for all registered pupils in accordance with the Education Reform Act and our commitment to promoting inclusivity and community cohesion.

The school applies the following definition to the term collective worship:

Collective Worship is a time when the whole school, or groups within the school come together to consider and reflect on common values, issues and interests and offer learners opportunities to engage in relevant and meaningful experiences which support their spiritual, moral, social and cultural awareness and development.

Our Aims and Objectives

To provide opportunities through which the school community can:

- Promote our shared ethos and values
- Reflect on shared experiences and acknowledge success
- Explore spirituality and human experience such as life and death
- Show due regard for truth, reason and the moral principles of right and wrong and justice and fairness
- Share common concerns and emphasise responsibilities

Assembly Organisation and Themes

Our organisation for Assemblies are as follows:

- Mondays - Whole School Assembly led by the Headteacher or Deputy
- Tuesday - Junior Assembly led by the Headteacher or Deputy
- Wednesday - Infant Assembly led by the Assistant Headteacher
- Friday - Junior Assembly led by the Assistant Headteacher
- Friday - Infant Assembly led by the Assistant Headteacher

We try to make collective Worship an activity that encourages pupils to express their responses in a variety of different ways - dance, drama, movement, art, craft, poetry and prose. We also recognise experiences such as joy, success, effort and any relevant interest which may be pertinent to an individual and/or group of learners.

Atmosphere is a most meaningful feature of worship to children and it is important that the hall is made as attractive as possible with displays of art and written work. Images and

Assembly Organisation and Themes

presentations are used to enhance the experience where appropriate. Music is played as the children enter and leave.

A typical assembly will also include opportunities for:

- Active participation of learners and staff
- Quiet reflection
- Learners to consider questions, themes and meanings during and after the session

Most assemblies are planned by the Headteacher and Deputy Headteacher and these are designed to support specific themes and values linked to the Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning Themes i.e. New beginnings, Going for goals, Getting on and falling out, All about me, Say no to bullying, Relationships and Change. These are themes that are extended in the classroom and are further underpinned by core values such as responsibility, tolerance, respect, fairness, kindness, integrity, courage, happiness, co-operation, resilience and honesty.

In addition to the themes key religious festivals are explored in our special celebration assemblies. These include: Christmas, Easter, Eid-ul-fitr, Diwali, Sukott and Harvest.

Where appropriate we invite special visitors to lead a specific assembly and also encourage classes and year groups to deliver special assemblies linked to their learning.

- Parents/carers and governors and other members of the community are invited to selected assemblies e.g. those relating to festivals and those being led by a particular class or year group.
- Speakers from Charities are also welcomed to help launch any related and agreed fund raising activity e.g. NSPCC

Monitors

In order to encourage the development of pupils organisational, communication and ICT skills and to develop their sense of responsibility the teachers select monitors to undertake a range of tasks in order to support assemblies. These include:

- Setting up and operating the technological equipment for playing music and showing visual presentations
- Putting out and putting away various furniture where required e.g. seats for teachers, tables etc
- Liaising with musical co-ordinator to choose an appropriate song and/or music for entering and leaving the assembly

Responsibilities

Arrangements for Collective Worship are made by The Headteacher after consultation with The Governing Body. The Headteacher is responsible for ensuring that the statutory responsibilities are met.

Right of Withdrawal

Parents/carers have the right to withdraw their children from Collective Worship. Teachers including the Headteacher's rights to withdraw are also safeguarded.

Summary

We take an active approach towards the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of our learners. We recognise both our legal responsibility to provide a daily act of collective worship and our commitment towards the inclusion of learners with a range of ethnicities, languages, religious, non religious, social and cultural traditions.