



An All-through Co-operative School

Preston Manor Lower School **Collective Worship Policy**

Worship is therefore an important part of the school day as it gives us the opportunity to come together as a community. It is attended by all students, staff and any visitors in school are very welcome to join in. Children and staff at Preston Manor come from a wide range of religious backgrounds and whilst our policy is in line with the legal requirement, we draw on beliefs and traditions from a variety of faiths many of which share characteristics with Christianity. The faith background of both staff and the child's family is respected at all times.

Definition of Collective Worship

Collective Worship is a time when the whole school, or groups within the school meet together in order to consider and reflect on common concerns, issues and interests. It offers all pupils an opportunity to worship through engaging in relevant, meaningful experiences and provides opportunities for the pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

Aims of Collective Worship

1. To provide the opportunity for pupils to reflect on values that are of a broadly Christian nature and on their own beliefs
2. To reflect and strengthen the caring ethos of the school.
3. To provide a special time in the school day for children to develop a reflective approach to life.
4. To encompass all aspects of school life and all areas of the curriculum so that every pupil and every member of staff may feel involved.
5. To develop their respect for others feelings and beliefs.
6. To develop the feeling of belonging to a community and a shared understanding.
7. To develop thinking about moral and spiritual issues and questions regarding equality, social justice, human rights and conflict.
8. To celebrate and give thanks for the achievements within the school, local and international community and occasions of significance, including festivals.

The Contribution of Collective Worship to aspects of the Curriculum

Collective Worship time is distinct from curriculum time. However, at Preston Manor, Collective Worship will at times feature aspects of the curriculum, which will enhance the experiences of pupils by reflecting on the work done in classes. At times, Collective Worship will enrich classwork through its consideration of subject matter from different perspectives.

The provision of opportunities for pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is in line with school policy which informs our practice. To ensure Collective Worship provides opportunities for spiritual, moral, social and cultural development it should address a wide variety of themes and topics, use diverse stimuli and resources and provide pupils with the opportunity to 'respond' on their own level.



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Legal Status of Collective Worship

The 1988 Education Reform Act requires that 'all pupils in attendance at a maintained school shall on each day take part in an act of Collective Worship'. We seek to do our best to keep the spirit of this legislation seeking to provide as many high quality acts of worship as is practically possible.

To provide students with variety in their experience of worship acts of worship may take the form of a whole school act of worship for all pupils or separate acts of worship for students in different age groups or school groups. Collective Worship may be held at any time during the school day.

All acts of worship are in accordance with the guidance issued in circular 1/94 which states that worship should be of a 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character' and not distinctive of any particular Christian denomination.

By broadly Christian at Preston Manor, we mean that we will:

- create an atmosphere in which every child feels secure in their own beliefs and has respect for the beliefs of others, whilst acknowledging the broadly Christian traditions of the country
- provide opportunities to acknowledge and celebrate festivals of major world religions
- ensure that collective worship topics are presented in relation to one or more religions (or from a moral or spiritual aspect), exploring key concepts common to Christianity and other religions, e.g. love, trust, forgiveness, mercy, humility, courage and integrity, respect for life, value of an individual, justice, co-operation and service, honesty and truthfulness.

Acts of Collective Worship at Preston Manor take into account the student's ages, aptitudes and family backgrounds. The school recognises that there is a difference between Acts of Collective Worship and the assembly of students. On some occasions, assembly may proceed or follow an Act of Collective Worship. When this happens, the transition from assembly to worship will be marked in some suitable way e.g. the lighting of a candle or reflecting on an image on the OHP, moment of silences and reflection etc.

Planning Acts of Collective Worship

The content of all acts of Collective Worship will be considered carefully, to ensure relevance and suitability for the ages, aptitudes and backgrounds of all pupils.

Termly planning sheets list themes, special occasions and events, but will be flexible to allow the inclusion of current and topical issues. Together with planning and recording sheets, these will ensure that there is continuity and progression, and enable the monitoring and evaluation of acts of worship to take place.

Assemblies

Assembly will:

- be inclusive of the beliefs of every child and adult.
- include a variety of elements at different times but maintain a standard format
- involve the pupils
- include a song, story or other reflection

The Head of Lower School and Governors are responsible for ensuring that this policy is implemented.



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Organisation

Assemblies are led by a senior member of staff or on occasion another member of staff. Once a term each class led by their teacher deliver an assembly which is related to their class theme/topic. Visitors may take an assembly from time to time or contribute to a special assembly e.g. Harvest. As part of the assembly there may be stories, drama, singing, music, readings and times for quiet reflection.

Example of an assembly timetable

Monday: Singing Assembly – Whole School

Tuesday: Year Group Assembly in class (R and Y1)
Phase Assembly in hall (Y2, 3 and 4)

Wednesday: Year Group Assembly in class (R and Y1)
Phase Assembly in hall (Y2, 3 and 4)

Thursday: Learning Powers Assembly - KS1 and KS2

Friday: Celebration of Work (parents invited) and Achievement Assembly – Whole School

On days when there are no assemblies it is the expectation that teachers plan a period of collective worship in their class, this should be identified on their weekly planning.

Monitoring, Evaluation and Review

The school will review this policy annually and assess its implementation and effectiveness.

Adopted: January 2014

Review Date: January 2016