



Marshbrook First School Collective Worship Policy Jan 2020

1 Aims and purpose

1.1 The aims and purpose of collective worship are:

- to provide an opportunity for children to worship;
- 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 promote a common ethos, with shared values, and to reinforce positive attitudes;

2 Collective worship

2.1 We understand worship to be a special act or occasion whose purpose is to show reverence to God. Collective worship involves members of the school coming together and participating in an assembly. We expect everyone attending to take an active part in the assembly.

2.2 As an academy, our funding agreement is drafted to mirror the requirements for acts of collective worship in maintained schools. In line with the 1996 Education Reform Act, which states that schools should provide a daily act of collective worship that should be 'of a broadly Christian character', we normally base our assemblies on British values, the teachings of Christ and the traditions of the Christian Church. However, we conduct our assemblies in a manner that is sensitive to the faiths and beliefs of all members of the school and while most acts of worship in our school are of a Christian nature, we also hold some assemblies that reflect the traditions of other religions.

3 Organisation of collective worship

3.1 We hold a daily act of collective worship. This forms part of each assembly, which can be either a whole-school assembly or a class assembly.

3.2 We conduct assemblies in a dignified and respectful way. We tell children that assembly time is a period of calm reflection. We regard it as a special time, and expect children to

behave in an appropriate way. We ask them to be quiet and thoughtful, to listen carefully to the teachings, and to participate fully in prayer and hymns.

- 3.3 The assemblies are normally conducted by the headteacher or other members of staff, but are sometimes led by local clergy or other representatives of local groups.
- 3.4 We take the themes of our assemblies from the traditions of the Christian faith, and we observe the festivals and mark the events of the Christian calendar. Sometimes the themes of our assemblies are linked to topics that we teach as part of the school curriculum particularly PSHE. We plan our assemblies and where possible link them to the PHSE themes for the half term. The headteacher produces a half termly assembly plan which forms a record of themes and contents.
- 3.5 Our assemblies reflect the achievements and learning of the children. Assemblies provide an opportunity to reward children for their achievements both in and out of school. They also play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school, which is that all children are valued, and all achievements are recognised. Marshbrook School is a successful school, and we shall continue to celebrate the successes of all our children through our assemblies.
- 3.6 Each class performs an assembly for the rest of the school and parents are invited, as this promotes community spirit, and shows the school and the homes working together in support of the children's achievements.
- 3.7 Governors' attendance at our assemblies is always welcome.

4 Right of withdrawal

- 4.1 We expect all children to attend assembly. However, any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from religious worship, and the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during that part of the assembly. Parents do not have to explain or give reasons for their request. This right of withdrawal complies with the 1988 Education Reform Act.
- 4.2 The headteacher keeps a record of children who have withdrawn from collective worship.

5 Monitoring and review

- 5.1 Monitoring the policy and practice of collective worship is the role of a named school governor, who is also responsible for religious education. The governor concerned liaises with the headteacher before reporting to the governors.
- 5.2 This policy will be reviewed at least every three years.