

Priestley Primary School

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

Reviewed Spring 2020



Philosophy

At Priestley Primary School, collective worship is set within the context of 'Assemblies' – which will include other features besides those required of collective worship. Worship has a wide range of meanings and forms of expression. For some people this might be devotion to a divine being, power or personal God; for others it might mean reflection on and understanding of those elements of life which are of value and worth.

Principles

Aims and Purpose

During collective worship we aim to:

- Provide an all-inclusive opportunity to build and reinforce community values.
- Reflect on and understand elements of life which are of value and worth.
- Provide a variety of opportunities for spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.
- Provide opportunities for expressing shared experiences, interests and celebrating occasions together.
- Provide opportunities for pupils interact with other year groups, staff and on occasions the wider community.
- Fulfil statutory requirements of a daily act of collective worship for all pupils.

Procedures

The School Community

Our school community is made up of people from many different religions and cultures. Assemblies are non-denominational and conducted in a manner which is sensitive to the faiths and beliefs of all members of the school community. We are proud of the diversity of our school community and as such hold assemblies that reflect and celebrate the traditions of the main religions, particularly those that are represented in the school and the wider community. Assemblies are regarded as a special time in the day of calm reflection and are conducted accordingly. Children are expected to behave respectfully and thoughtfully and are asked to come in and leave assemblies without talking.

Organisation of Collective Worship

Collective worship involves members of the school coming together and participating in an assembly every day. These assemblies normally involve whole school 3 days per week and class-based assemblies take place on the remaining 2 days of the week.

One assembly each week is reserved for Celebration where the children have the chance to reflect the achievements and learning that has been undertaken during the previous week. These assemblies also provide an opportunity to reward children for their achievements both in and out of school and celebrate them together. They also play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school - that all children and their achievements are valued.

Another assembly is set aside each week to focus on the school's ethos and Spikey, the school's learning figure. One of Spikey's learning traits fulfils a termly focus for these assemblies.

Finally, the third whole school assembly each week is set aside for the children to learn new songs and experience the collective joy inherent in being able to sing a range of songs together.

The weekly Celebration Assembly is normally conducted by the headteacher, whilst the other school assemblies are led by the teaching staff on a rota or on occasion led by visitors to the school. Assembly themes are very broad to allow for flexibility and variety of delivery.

Right of Withdrawal from Collective Worship

Every effort is made to show sensitivity towards personal faiths and to include all everyone in collective worship. A parent may make a request for their child to be wholly/ or partly excused from religious worship at school.

Performance

Policy is reviewed by the Governing Body and practice is monitored by the Senior Management Team alongside the RE Co ordinator.

To be reviewed Spring 2023