



## Maryland Primary School Collective Worship Policy

### AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

Collective worship at Maryland Primary School contributes to the moral, spiritual, cultural and educational development of all pupils. Through collective worship, we aim to promote and encourage pupils to:

- learn about the world they live in and develop a sense of belonging within the school community
- learn about, from and promote greater understanding, tolerance and respect for each other's cultures and beliefs
- develop empathy, care, sensitivity and a positive self image
- celebrate each other's successes and achievements through sharing work and ideas
- know and understand the importance of religious stories and ideas found in Christianity and other religions
- appreciate and celebrate festivals within the school community, including events such as Remembrance Day
- reflect on topics shared and their own approach to relationships with peers and adults within the school and outside in the community.
- encourage appropriate behaviour within specific settings and gatherings and reflect on matters of right and wrong.

### COLLECTIVE WORSHIP IS NOT:

- confessional
- insensitive to the cultural diversity of the school.

### AND DOES NOT:

- expect pupils to behave in a way that undermines their personal beliefs
- seek to preach or convert or indoctrinate.

### APPROACH

Teachers presenting assemblies seek to promote interest and curiosity through employing a variety of styles and methods involving a cross curricular approach (story telling/questioning, drama, poetry, props, music, pictures, paintings, posters religious/other artefacts, Headteacher's vision for the year etc.).

Assemblies can be formal, informal, participative and experimental. They must include short time for reflection or moral thought.

### ORGANISATION

The Headteacher and senior leadership team lead assemblies on Mondays, Wednesdays (Critical Thinking) and Fridays; other staff members take assemblies on other days including singing assemblies in both key stages. Assemblies are planned around a programme of weekly themes which include HT's vision for the year and Social Emotional Aspects of Learning (SEAL) topics. Staff are advised of the theme of the week through assembly rotas. Religious leaders and other visitors are invited to assemblies/collective worship on occasions and these visits are noted and approved by the Headteacher. Staff are given notice of visitors attending assemblies. Prior to coming, visitors are given information on the diversity of the school population, the purpose of collective worship, the age range of the children, the theme and timings, etc. to ensure standards and continuity.

### CONTINUITY

Where possible, weekly themes will be chosen to link in to other calendar events events/focussed work occurring in the school e.g. festivals, Black History month, celebration of notable figures' lives, anti-bullying week etc. The development of themes will be structured across the week to reflect a broad approach and to link with a number of curriculum areas.

### RECORD KEEPING

Weekly records of assemblies are kept on assembly tables in both halls.

A broad central bank of resources is continually built up to support and develop weekly themes.

### RIGHTS OF WITHDRAWAL

Parents have the right to withdraw their child from assemblies. This is discussed on the child's admission into school. Alternative accommodation is provided for the child during this period.

### MONITORING

Informal monitoring is carried out by senior leadership team regularly. Postholder is required to report formally on collective worship to the local authority on a regular basis.