

MALOREES INFANT & JUNIOR SCHOOL



COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

Policy updated & approved:	Nov 2019
Review date:	Nov 2021

Rationale

Malorees Infant & Junior School believe that the role of 'collective worship' supports and strengthens what we aim to do in every aspect of school life. Our caring ethos and the value we place on the development of the whole child: spiritually, morally, socially, culturally and intellectually is reflected in our 'worship'.

It will be embedded as part of our **THRIVING** ethos and values.

We value this special time in the school day for the space and time it gives children to develop a reflective approach to life, and the ability to express their reflections in an appropriate manner.

Definition of Collective Worship

Collective Worship is a time when the whole school or groups within school come together in order to reflect on common concerns, issues and interests. It offers all pupils an opportunity to reflect through engaging in relevant, meaningful experiences which promote their development on a broader, 'holistic' level.

It is a legal requirement that schools have a daily collective activity which emphasises common values, principles and aspirations.

Provision

In order to reflect the diversity of our school and wider community we adopt Brent Council's recommended approach by applying to **SACRE (Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education)** for a 'determination'. This allows us to follow a model of practice which reflects our families more broadly as opposed to following the requirements of The Education Act 1996, whereby collective worship should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character'.

In consultation with our Governing Body and parents we have applied for and continued for renewal of our determination since its introduction in 1996.

Aims

Through our collective workshop we aim to provide a caring and supportive environment to:

- Share our common values and vision.
- Celebrate achievement and special times.
- Explore together the world in which we live.
- Develop a community, team-orientated spirit.
- Acknowledge diversity and to grow in our understanding of the feelings of others in everyday situations and beliefs.
- Consider spiritual and moral issues.
- Reinforce positive attitudes.
- Understand our 'Promise Tree' which teaches the children about their rights and responsibilities

These principles underpin our expectations for both children and adults within our school community.

Practice

At Malorees Infant & Junior Schools collective worship will be embedded into assemblies or feature in other aspects of the curriculum which promote thinking and reflection time, such as Circle Time.

To ensure collective worship provides opportunities for spiritual, moral, social and cultural development it will be addressed through a variety of themes and topics, use of diverse stimuli and resources, and provide time for children to 'respond' on their level.

Assemblies have been organised to include 2 whole school assemblies per week, whilst for the remaining days, collective worship will be facilitated through class discussions or possibly circle time forums. Our assemblies reflect the learning and achievements of the children in an inclusive and creative way.

In terms of organisation, the SLT, RE and PSHE Leaders will be responsible for co-ordinating themes for assemblies to ensure breadth and coverage across the whole school to support continuity and cohesion. Equally, our school is eager to look at how RE and PSHE learning opportunities can be mutually supportive and be incorporated to enhance pupils understanding and application of these principles.

Visitors will be encouraged and welcomed to lead collective worship on accessions, and this may also include participation from our parent community.

Governors are always welcome to attend our assemblies.

Leaders from different faith communities will be invited to help increase the pupils' awareness, respect and understanding of these faiths.

The content of these assemblies would be discussed and considered carefully beforehand to ensure relevance and suitability for the ages and backgrounds of all our learners.

Effective, collective worship can provide a valuable connection between home and school and encourage the child to feel included, secure and valued.

Opportunities for stillness and reflection are increasingly encouraged in order to:

- Provide some quiet time in a busy school day for children.
- Support their emotional development.
- Nurture their spiritual development and sense of 'identity' and 'self'.
- Draw on support in a time of need or challenge, and to draw on the school community spirit.
- Make connections with the Brent framework for Religious Education for making cross-curricular themes that develop children's learning experiences and knowledge.

The 'whole child' is central to our belief system and values at Malorees Infant School, therefore staff work conscientiously to embed this through their planning, practice and relationship building with children and their families.

Links to UNICEF -Rights and Responsibilities and Collective Worship

At Malorees, we ensure that the Rights of the Children are embedded through all learning opportunities, collective worship included. We have weekly themed assemblies which are often linked to the UNICEF Convention of the Rights of the Child (CRC) - Rights and Responsibilities. Our Promise Tree has been designed by children at Malorees.

The rights and responsibilities conveyed in the CRC articles have been written in child -friendly and accessible language within The Promise Tree and used as an integral tool in our assemblies, and connect with how these key principles are used in the classroom to support children's behaviour, expectations and well-being.

Our weekly assemblies are led by a member of SLT, where a theme is explored eg. acts of kindness/friendship/relationships. A key story is often central to the delivery of these themes. In addition, a Music and Mentions Assembly are in place where achievements are celebrated, with songs linked to key themes or school led performances.

Right to Withdrawal

We expect all children to attend our assemblies. However, parents can request permission have a right to withdraw their children from collective worship. In the first instance, discussion with the Headteacher needs to take place so the parent can give reasons for the request.

Requests of this nature are very rare within the school.

We hope this reflects the confidence shown by parents in our delivery of the RE curriculum and collective worship.

