Harford Manor School

Foundations For Futures

Collective Worship Policy

Date approved by Governors	
Last reviewed by	
Next review date	
Person(s) responsible for review:	

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Requirements

The government requires all schools to provide an act of Collective worship. At Harford Manor, we acknowledge that our school community is not a 'worshipping community' in the same sense as a local church. We provide daily acts of Collective Worship, however, which we believe help children understand some of the features of worship in a believing Christian community. These are:

- praise
- Reflection
- celebration
- thanks
- saying sorry
- sharing

We have chosen these elements because we believe they are also important features of our everyday life in school and are therefore appropriate responses for all pupils and staff in our community.

The law also requires us to provide pupils with an opportunity to worship God as part of our Collective Worship. We therefore try to provide an opportunity to respond in the form of a time of quiet reflection at some point in each act of collective worship. This time may involve spoken prayers but more often a time for each pupil and adult present to be quiet and think about what they have heard; this will provide opportunity for each to worship God if they should wish to do so.

Context

The 1988 Education Reform Act reinforced and added to the requirements of the 1944 Act regarding worship in schools. Although the legal framework states that all pupils attending a maintained school should take part in daily collective worship, there are two clauses in the framework which are particularly pertinent to Harford Manor School:

- Nursery children are excluded from this requirement
- Collective worship for pupils in special schools should be provided as far as is reasonably practicable.

Rationale

We believe that collective worship at Harford Manor School should work in harmony with the overall values and attitudes fostered within the school, thus enhancing the development of the spiritual, moral, social and cultural dimensions of all the pupils. It is important that it draws on the whole curriculum and explores and reflects upon the celebration of all aspects of school life.

Right of Withdrawal

If a parent requests that their child should be wholly or partly excused from attending any religious worship or Religious Education in the school, then we will comply with those wishes.

Objectives

- To enable pupils to explore a variety of forms of worship, thus enabling those with a religious understanding to deepen their experience, and allow those without a commitment to begin to feel what worship may mean to them.
- To enable pupils to make use of the opportunity for silence or thought or, if appropriate, prayer iii. To enable pupils to become aware of the many questions which relate to life
- To acknowledge the things that have meaning, value and purpose for the pupils as individuals, as well as for the school and the wider community
- To develop a sense of community within and beyond the school
- To celebrate achievements, special occasions and special events in relation to the individual pupils, a group of pupils, the school as a whole or with the wider community.

Forms of Presentation

Although there is a distinction to be made between the collective act of worship and an ordinary school assembly, it is of course possible to combine the two. At Harford Manor, collective worship will often be part of an assembly, but it may also be an element in a class or group timetable.

Creating a suitable atmosphere for an occasion of collective worship is very important; the responses from pupils are likely to be more positive if they are comfortable and secure. Some of the usual types of acts of worship used within the school are reflective, celebratory, exploratory and thought provoking. Collective worship at Harford Manor may be:

- Teacher led
- Teaching Assistant led
- Visitor led
- Governor led
- Class led
- Group led

The Secondary Department and Primary Department each meet for assembly once a week, the pupils also meet in their class and/or phase groups on a regular basis.

The age and particular needs of the pupils will determine the range of presentation at any one time. Due to our pupils having such a wide age and ability range, it is difficult to pitch the content, or even language, of an assembly at a level suitable for all. We therefore feel it is only practical to have one Department assembly each week.

Content

Section 7(1) of the 1988 Act states that collective worship should be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian nature. This does not mean that it must have a heavy religious bias; rather that it should reflect the broad traditions of Christian belief (which are similar to the virtues extolled by many other religions). The emphasis then is on an act of worship which "reflects" Christian beliefs and traditions, but not one which actually embodies these beliefs. For example, it is appropriate to use the School Prayer in assembly but pupils will not be required to join in such a prayer.

Assemblies may on occasion follow a particular theme, perhaps "kindness", "friends" or "Easter". When there is such a theme, it may be continued into class sessions. Sometimes these themes will be self selecting and predictable (e.g. Christmas), and other times they may stem from something that has arisen in school (e.g. Subject themed days). All assemblies will include time for celebration and reflection.

Included in assemblies may be:

- Pupils' work and achievements
- Music and singing
- Curriculum links
- Drama and dance
- Prayer and meditation
- Poetry and reading
- Powerpoint,Video and film
- Story and discussion
- Photographs and slides
- Class topic work
- Artefacts and objects
- MAGIC Awards

Links to other Policies

The policy should be read in conjunction with the following school policies and procedures:

- Continued Learning at Home Policy
- Teaching and Learning Policy Statement
- Single Equalities Scheme
- Policy Monitoring and Reporting