

ELEANOR PALMER PRIMARY COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

March 2019

Assembly

All maintained schools must provide a daily assembly for registered pupils

The Headteacher is responsible (under the School Standards and Framework Act 1998) for arranging the daily assembly after consulting with the Governing Body.

Assembly offers opportunities for our children and staff to come together to reflect on the meaning of beliefs and values held in the wider community, concerning matters of ethical and philosophical importance of significance to people. It reflects the breadth of values and beliefs within our school and wider community.

In our assemblies we aim to encourage the children to:

- Reflect on their own values and beliefs as well as those of others;
- Develop a community spirit, a common ethos and shared values;
- Learn about the main tenets and rituals of the main world faiths;
- Consider spiritual and moral issues.

Assemblies at Eleanor Palmer

Since 2008, the Governing Body of Eleanor Palmer, after consultation with parents, have acquired a 'determination' giving the school the right to hold assemblies that are not 'wholly or mainly of a Christian nature'. This determination is renewed every 5 years. This decision was based on statistics showing that our community is of no one main religious group and in fact over 40% say they are of 'no religion' (March 2019). This decision in no way reflects a lack of respect for the Christian faith and we ensure that the main tenets, stories and festivals of Christianity are covered in assemblies along with those of other faiths.

Since 2018, we have developed our approach by offering Big School Meetings on alternate Tuesdays, replacing the larger assembly. Children from Reception to Year 6 are re-grouped into vertical classes. This forum gives more children a voice and enables deeper follow up from larger assembly themes with older children able to model and mentor.

Implementation

As a school we hold an assembly four days a week in the hall and as part of classroom time on Thursdays. We have Key Stage assemblies on most days and a whole school assembly on Fridays.

Timetable:

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
9.10 am KS2 Headteacher	9.10 am KS2 Classteacher	9.10 am Years 1-6 Deputy and music teacher	In class	10.20 am All Head and deputy
10.25 am FS/KS1 Headteacher	10.25 am FS/KS1 Classteacher	1.30 am Deputy	In class	

The Headteacher, in consultation with staff, chooses a general theme each term, e.g. happy minds, Old Testament stories, the wonders of science, festivals such as Eid, or moral issues such as thinking of others or honesty.

During Assembly we:

- Present imaginative , well prepared and resourced sessions;
- Relate to the interests and needs of the school;
- Aim to be inclusive - all children should gain something from the experience;
- Give opportunities for children to reflect on what was presented through discussion and in silence;
- Involve the children by asking lots of questions and eliciting their views and ideas.

Withdrawal

Given that our determination was re-ratified by SACRE in April 2019 and that therefore we do not lead collective Christian worship, there is no right of withdrawal.

Monitoring, Evaluation and Review

The school will review this policy bi-annually and the Determination every five years and assess its implementation and effectiveness. The policy will be promoted and implemented throughout the school.

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