



Greenmount Primary School

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

Summer 2019

Together, we nurture the future

1 Document Information

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Author(s):	Richard May, Headteacher
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Signed by:	Steven Vaughan, Chair of Leadership and Management Committee
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3 Context

It is a legal requirement that all registered school age pupils take part in an act of worship each day. These acts of worship must be “wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian Character” for the majority of the time. They must also be “appropriate, having regard to the ages, aptitudes and family backgrounds of the pupils”.

Greenmount Primary School serves a town community in an island coastal location. The population it serves is predominantly white British and access to faith experiences other than Christianity is limited. A small percentage of families come from other ethnic and religious backgrounds, and pupils are not immune from developments and influences in a wider world through family and personal contacts, the media and from their education. We recognise that in asking our children to worship, we have to consider the background that our children

come from and it is therefore not the practice of this school to preach to or convert the children. The faith background of both the staff and the child's family is respected at all times.

4 Legal Requirements

The head teacher is responsible (under the School Standards and Framework Act 1998) for arranging the daily collective worship after consulting with the governing body. Parents of pupils at a community, foundation or voluntary school have a right to withdraw their children from collective worship. If a parent asks for their child to be wholly or partly excused from attending collective worship at the school, the school must comply unless the request is withdrawn. Any parent who wishes to exercise this right should consult the head teacher. Teachers may also withdraw from collective worship.

5 Aims for Collective Worship

Collective worship is an essential element in the school's promotion of the spiritual and moral development of pupils as required by Education Reform Act 1988. Worship is understood as a collective act in a community school, interpreted very openly and widely as an act which brings a school group to a point where they are able to make a shared, reflective response to a divine being, power, ideal or value of some worth, wholly or mainly within the broad traditions of Christian belief on the majority of occasions. We believe that collective worship supports the school's stated values and strengthens what we aim to do in every aspect of school life. Our caring ethos, and the value which we place on the development of the whole child spiritually, morally, socially, culturally and intellectually is reflected in our worship. We value this special time in the school day for the space it gives children to develop a reflective, informed approach to life and the ability to express their reflections in traditionally religious ways or any other appropriate manner.

Through our collective worship we aim to provide a caring and supporting environment for children to:

- Become increasingly aware of themselves as individuals and groups within the school and wider community
- Grow in understanding of the feelings of other people in everyday situations and beliefs
- Explore the language which people use to express their feelings
- Deepen their sense of wonder about the world around them
- Show interest in, and a concern for, members of the school and wider community
- Celebrate special occasions together
- Share appreciation of worthwhile projects undertaken by groups within the school and wider community
- Explore and review the variety of values, attitudes, standards and beliefs manifested in religions and society
- Reflect upon dimensions of human life – the wonderful, beautiful, joyful, heroic, humorous, tragic, sorrowful, solemn...

Worship both reflects and nurtures the ethos of the whole school. It encompasses all aspects of school life and all areas of the curriculum so that every member of staff and every pupil may feel involved. In particular, school worship at Greenmount develops the feeling of belonging to a community which is essential for personal development and spiritual growth.

6 Approaches

Daily worship is provided on the school premises, in the hall or in classrooms, through the following means:

- Acts of worship through daily assemblies - including celebration assembly – of around 20 minutes' duration
- Acts of worship in class
- Time for reflection through Monday 'Big think' assembly and assemblies rooted in current events and developments

Acts of worship are led by the head teacher, deputy head teacher, Key Stage leaders, class teachers and carefully selected visitors to the school, including members of local faith communities, when appropriate.

7 Staff and governors have agreed the following aims:

- To provide a daily focal point in the life of the school for transmission and development of the school's published values, traditions and ethos
- To nurture the identity and nature of the school as a community
- To develop in pupils an awareness of - and a sense of belonging to - the many different dimensions of that community
- To develop positive and supportive moral attitudes among pupils
- To create a sense of gathering for a purpose
- To enable pupils to come to terms with and express their own beliefs, values and commitments and those of others, both in school and in the wider community
- To create an experience that promotes thought and reflection on a variety of situations, promoting pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development
- To *provide an opportunity* for pupils to worship God
- To support and enhance other whole school policies – for instance those relating to well-being, behaviour and bullying - through worship

8 Evaluation

We will evaluate the success of our acts of worship against some of the following:

- Involvement, enjoyment, attention, reaction of pupils
- The growth of respect and acceptance within the school community
- Positive response to shared experience
- Contributions to individual and communal well-being

- A sense of occasion
- A sense of challenge
- A place in the overall plan of the school
- Enrichment of pupil's experience

The implementation and effectiveness of this policy will be monitored by: Head teacher, Deputy Head teacher, Senior Leadership Team, Governors, School Council and Parents/Carers.