



Margaret McMillan Primary School

Policy on Collective Worship

1 Introduction

Margaret McMillan Primary School is a maintained school in the Bradford Metropolitan district, catering for children aged from 3 to 11. This worship policy has been designed with our school population in mind. It is written in accordance with guidance from Bradford's Standing Advisory Council for RE (SACRE).

2 Policy Statement

2.1 This worship reflects the law (i.e. the requirements of the 1988 Education Reform Act) and strengthens the community ethos of the school.

Collective worship will take place and will be planned so as to be appropriate to all pupils of any religion or none, to enable them to be present and take part as appropriate.

2.2 The aims and objectives of collective worship in Margaret McMillan are:

- to provide an opportunity for children to worship God (in separate faith assemblies);
- to enable children to consider spiritual and moral issues;
- to enable children to explore their own beliefs;
- to encourage participation and response;
- to develop in children a sense of community spirit;
- to promote a common ethos, with shared values, and to reinforce positive attitudes;
- to teach children how to worship.

All present should feel valued whatever their faith or personal beliefs.

They will reflect the beliefs and backgrounds and encourage a voluntary response from pupils.

Worship will acknowledge and respect the responses of individual pupils and provide opportunities for them to express their feelings, delight at life, wonder, joy, rejoicing, sorrow. etc.

Acts of worship will not assume a shared religious commitment. They will encourage pupils to consider their own place in the community and what it means to be a citizen.

3 The legal requirements; the Education Reform Act 1988

Style and Character

- 3.1 In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act and in accordance with faith of the majority of our children, we hold a **series of determinations** for our collective worship. A determination does not lift the requirement for a daily act of collective worship. Once a week, we offer a range of faith groups, according to our school demographic (currently Muslim and Christian), the opportunity to meet for worship specific to each faith. Separate provision is made for pupils whose parents do not wish them to attend the faith worship we provide.
- 3.2 On the remaining days we meet in normal school groupings for inclusive worship in which all pupils can take part and which will draw from a range of religions and other traditions. We conduct our assemblies in a manner that is sensitive to the faiths and beliefs of all members of the school.

Organisation of collective worship

- 3.3 We hold a daily act of collective worship. This forms part of each morning assembly, which can be either a K.S. 1 or K.S 2 assembly, or a year group or class assembly.
- 3.4 We conduct assemblies in a dignified and respectful way. We tell children that assembly time is a period of calm reflection. We regard it as a special time, and expect children to behave in an appropriate way. We ask them to be quiet and thoughtful, to listen carefully to the teachings, and to participate fully in the spiritual activities of the assembly. We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music or other objects, to focus the attention of the children.
- 3.5 The assemblies are normally conducted by the head teacher or other members of staff, but once a week a Muslim faith leader from The Bradford Interfaith Education Centre conducts our Muslim faith assembly. A member of staff conducts an assembly of a broadly Christian character with our small number of Christian children. Provision is made for children who have no faith in a separate group.

4. The content of Collective Worship

- 4.1 The content of collective worship will be designed to enhance the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils; to provide opportunities for reflection: to celebrate the good, praise achievements and promote recognition of each pupils own worth and potential.
- 4.2 We often take the themes of our assemblies from the traditions of our community faiths, and we observe the festivals and mark the events of the Christian and Muslim calendars. Sometimes the themes of our assemblies are related to topics that we teach as part of the school curriculum and including the SEAL aspect of PHSCE and Building Learning Power (BLP) muscles. We plan our assemblies in advance of the day they take place.
- 4.3 Our assemblies reflect the achievements and learning of the children. We encourage the children to participate in the assemblies by showing their work to the other children, and

by raising issues that they have discussed in their classes. Assemblies provide an opportunity to reward children for their achievements both in and out of school. They also play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school, which is that all children are valued, and all achievements are recognised. Margaret McMillan School is a successful school, and we shall continue to celebrate the successes of all our children at our assemblies.

4.4 Governors' attendance at our assemblies is always welcome.

5 Right of withdrawal

5.1 We expect all children to attend assembly. We believe that collective worship is inclusive and beneficial for all pupils. It is hoped that no child will have to be withdrawn from collective worship, but where this is the case any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from religious worship, and the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during that part of the assembly. Parents do not have to explain or give reasons for their request. This right of withdrawal complies with the 1944 Education Act, and was restated in the 1988 Education Reform Act.

5.2 The head teacher keeps a record of all children who have been withdrawn from collective worship.

6 Monitoring and review

6.1 Monitoring the policy and practice of collective worship is the role of a named school governor, who is also responsible for religious education. The governor concerned liaises with the head teacher before reporting to the governors.

6.2 This policy will be reviewed at least every five years.