



Collective Worship Policy

January 2025

Chair of Governors, Jane Jones

Signed

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Jane Jones", written over a light grey circular stamp or watermark.

East Preston Infant School

East Preston Infant School is a Rights Respecting School. All pupils, staff and visitors have the right to be healthy, safe, educated, listened to and treated fairly. These principles are at the heart of our school ethos, and our policies and practices support these rights. We are committed to equal rights, mutual respect and shared responsibility.

In this Policy we specifically recognise the following articles from the UN convention on the Rights of the Child:

Article 14 – Every child has the right to think and believe what they want and to practice their religion, as long as they are not stopping other people from enjoying their rights.

Article 29 – Education must develop every child’s personality, talents and abilities to the full. It must encourage the child’s respect for human rights, as well as respect for their parents, their own and other cultures and the environment.

Collective Worship Policy

At East Preston Infant School, we believe it is important to meet together daily as a community to affirm and celebrate the values and ethos of the school, adding to the pupils’ development of an awareness of, and a sense of belonging to, the different dimensions of the schools’ community. The character of worship in school is broadly Christian, with references to other faiths as appropriate.

Collective worship is co-ordinated by the Deputy Headteacher and a variety of themes and activities are used to ensure a high-quality experience for all the children, regardless of family background.

AIMS

- to provide an opportunity for pupils to meet together as a whole school;
- to encourage and develop a sense of community in the school, reinforcing the aims and ethos and celebrating the ideals and values of the school;
- to share an experience which promotes thought and reflection;
- to further promote pupils’ spiritual, moral, social and cultural development;
- to consider and reflect upon a variety of situations and issues and make a personal response;
- to enable children to reflect quietly and make an internal response in the light of personal beliefs and background.

ORGANISATION AND MANAGEMENT

The school holds daily assemblies where pupils meet together. These assemblies have a variety of aims, content and experience and within them the daily act of collective worship takes place.

We use the 3-stage model below to organise our assemblies:

1. Stimulus – e.g. music, a picture, quotation, candle, flowers etc. We usually start assemblies with a piece of music to help to create an atmosphere for assembly and reflection and give the pupils time to prepare.
2. Engagement – e.g. a story, drama or message etc. Visual aids, artefacts or illustrations of the key points help make the message memorable.
3. Response (reflection) - Allowing the children to respond - e.g. giving the pupils an opportunity to reflect. Silence can allow time for individual thought and reflection. At our school the adult says a few words which summarise the key message of the assembly and, if they wish to, children are able to agree with the response by saying “Amen”. It is the Response (3rd stage) that constitutes the act of collective worship.

During assemblies we regularly revisit our golden rules:

- We are kind and helpful – we don't hurt anybody's feelings.
- We are gentle – we don't hurt others.
- We listen – we don't interrupt.
- We work hard – we don't waste our own or others' time.
- We are honest – we don't cover up the truth.
- We look after property – we don't waste or damage things.

Assemblies also provide the opportunity to remind the children about ‘The Universal Declaration of Human Rights’ and to discuss it's meaning and implications for all of us here at East Preston Infant school. We focus on the following rights:

- The right to be healthy,
- The right to be safe,
- The right to be educated,
- The right to be listened to,
- The right to be treated fairly.

HOW COLLECTIVE WORSHIP IS ORGANISED

Assemblies usually take place in the school hall at 10am Monday to Thursday and at 1.45pm on Fridays. Teachers supervise the entrance of their class and music is played at the beginning and end of the assembly.

Collective worship is arranged so that there is variety in grouping, content and leadership. Elements referred to in the safeguarding and RHSE policies such as bullying, racial awareness and healthy lifestyles are also revisited during these assemblies. This provides children with the opportunity to explore these issues and ways in which to overcome conflicts that may occur.

A termly programme of assembly themes is produced and distributed to staff, the most up to date version can also be located on the school website in the [Spiritual Development Section](#). This is part of the annual programme organised by the co-ordinator that also includes special occasions, held at various times of the year.

Assemblies are normally led by the Strategic Leadership Team or other members of staff, however sometimes local clergy, other representatives of local religious groups, or visitors

from community organisations e.g. RSPCA, NSPCC are invited into the school to share the leadership of the assembly.

USUAL WEEKLY PROGRAMME

Monday	Whole School Assembly led by the Headteacher
Tuesday	Whole School Assembly led by the Deputy Headteacher
Wednesday	Year Group assembly in hall (Year 1) or Class Assembly
Thursday	Year Group Assembly in hall (Year 2) or Class Assembly
Friday	Whole school collective worship and hymn practice

Please note that the time at which this takes place and the form of the assembly (whole school, year or class groupings) may vary on occasion.

RESOURCES

A range of books are available to support collective worship in the school and are kept in the Headteachers office. In addition, resources from other faiths and for special occasions are kept in the library and the central storage cupboards in the main corridor.

WITHDRAWAL

We expect all children to attend assembly. However, any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from attending specific collective worship assemblies such as those reflecting festivals in the Christian or other faith calendars. A member of staff will supervise the child at this time. Parents do not have to explain or give reasons for their request for withdrawal. This complies with the 1944 Education Act and was restated in the 1988 Education Reform Act.

The Headteacher keeps a record of all children who are withdrawn from collective worship.

SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

Worship is used explicitly to promote spiritual development. Pupils are provided with the opportunity to consider and think about issues that reflect areas of meaning. This is done through the input, readings or stories, singing and quiet time for reflection.

COMMUNITY

The school works with the local churches, St Mary's Church of England and Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Church. At certain times of the year, such as Harvest and Christmas the whole school attends the local churches.

Parents are invited to attend assemblies for special occasions including year group assemblies held twice a year.