

**ELEANOR PALMER PRIMARY  
COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY  
January 2022**

**Assembly**

All maintained schools must provide a daily assembly for registered pupils and at Eleanor Palmer, we see these assemblies as hugely valuable and powerful times for collective reflection and learning.

The Co-headteachers are 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 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;
- learn about changes in the natural world throughout the year; and

learn about current events and how they affect our community and others around the world.

**Assemblies at Eleanor Palmer**

Since 2008, the Governing Body of Eleanor Palmer, after consultation with parents, has 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 one of these days. We have Key Stage assemblies on most days and a whole school assembly on Wednesday.

### **Timetable:**

<b>MONDAY</b>	<b>TUESDAY</b>	<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>THURSDAY</b>	<b>FRIDAY</b>
10:20 am Whole school or Big School Meeting Co-headteacher	10:20 am KS1/FS Infant teacher	10:20 am Whole school Co-headteachers	9:10 am KS2 & Y2 Music teacher and class teachers	10.20 am KS2 Junior teacher
	KS2 - class-based assembly	1:30 FS/Y1 pm Music teacher and infant teachers		Infants - class-based assembly

The Co-headteachers, 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.

Effective assemblies at Eleanor Palmer:

- present engaging, clear, well prepared and well resourced information;
- relate to the interests and needs of the school and its community;
- make connections with previous assemblies and Big School Meetings;
- are 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 questions and eliciting their views and ideas; and
- are outlined in our whole school weekly newsletters to inform parents.

## **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, assessing its implementation and effectiveness against the aims above and SACRE's criteria for a Determination. The policy will be promoted and implemented throughout the school.

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