

MANSTON PRIMARY SCHOOL



Model Collective Worship Policy

Manston Primary School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the well-being of all children and expects our staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

Policy reviewed by: TLPS Committee

Date Approved: March 2026

Review Date: Spring 2028



The Law

This policy reflects the requirements of the Education Reform Act 1988 and associated regulations.

All registered pupils will take part in a daily act of collective worship unless withdrawn by their parents.

- There is no requirement for collective worship to take place with the whole school at once. It may take place in year groups, key stages, classes or other appropriate groupings.
- Collective worship may take place at any time during the school day and will normally be on school premises.
- Provision will be appropriate to the age, aptitude and family backgrounds of pupils.
- Responsibility for ensuring statutory requirements are met lies with the Headteacher and Governing Body.
- Details of arrangements for collective worship are documented within this policy and made available to the public.

Withdrawal of Pupils

Parents have a statutory right to withdraw their child from collective worship. Where possible, the school will discuss any request with parents to ensure clarity about the inclusive nature of our provision.

If a parent wishes to proceed, the request must be made in writing to the Headteacher. The school will provide appropriate supervision and alternative activity.

The Value of Collective Worship at Manston Primary

At Manston Primary, collective worship is a central element of our wider Personal Development offer. It provides structured opportunities for reflection, shared values, celebration and spiritual growth.

We see collective worship as a time for sharing and togetherness, fostering a sense of belonging to the school community and to the wider society in which we live.

We believe collective worship:

- Offers space for the school community to learn, grow and celebrate together
- Provides opportunity for personal reflection on individual and wider issues
- Nurtures pupils' SMSC (spiritual, moral, social and cultural) development, especially spiritual development
- Promotes understanding of diverse faiths, cultures and world views
- Responds sensitively to topical or local issues
- Develops pupils' confidence in speaking, listening and participation

British Values as the Core Spine

British Values form the core spine of our collective worship programme. These values are explicitly referenced, revisited and explored throughout the academic year and underpin the themes selected.

- Democracy

- The rule of law
- Individual liberty
- Mutual respect
- Tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs

Organisation of Collective Worship

Collective worship is delivered through a structured weekly rhythm that supports coherence, progression and depth across the school.

Assemblies are planned across the academic year, linked to key events and themes, and sequenced to build understanding progressively over time.

Monday – Whole School Assembly

- Launches the theme for the week
- Reinforces British Values
- Celebrates achievement and positive choices
- Links to behaviour, safeguarding and attendance where appropriate

Tuesday – Class Assembly

- Explores the weekly question in greater depth
- Uses structured discussion to promote reflection and pupil voice
- Allows teachers to contextualise themes for the age and stage of pupils

Wednesday – Singing Assembly

- Brings pupils together through shared singing
- Includes hymns, popular and contemporary music, and seasonal songs
- Promotes unity and collective participation

Thursday – Citizenship Assembly

- Deepens the weekly theme
- Explores equality, inclusion and real-life scenarios
- Strengthens understanding of democracy, rights and responsibilities

Friday – Celebration Assembly

- Weekly celebration of learning, effort and achievement
- Recognises positive learning behaviours and personal development
- Reinforces high expectations and pride in learning

Principles and practice at our school

These are our key principles in planning collective worship:

- All children will take part in Collective Worship every day.
- All members of staff will be given the opportunity to lead Collective Worship.
- All children will also be given the opportunity to participate.
- Members of appropriate organisations will be invited to share in Collective Worship.
- Themes used will sometimes relate to the cycle of the seasons, the wonders of the world, the deeds of man and the celebration of religious festivals. They will also relate to the

children's interests – classroom activities, the interests of the community and values upheld by individuals and other communities.

- The themes will be put forward in a variety of ways, e.g. through story, prose, poetry, drama, art, music, discussion.
- There will be opportunity to recognise the distinctiveness of the many faiths and world views shared in our community.
- The collective worship may include the singing of hymns and songs and opportunities may be given, both to join in with and to listen to prayers and or reflect.
- Time will also be provided for silence and reflection.
- The School will meet sometimes as a whole and sometimes in smaller groups.

Reflection and prayer

Collective worship should include opportunity for reflection. This may include the use of prayers. Sensitivity should be used to ensure that prayer or other forms of spirituality are as inclusive as possible. Assumptions or assertions about specific doctrinal beliefs may make it difficult for members of some faith communities, or pupils without religious affiliation, to participate. It may be introduced with a phrase that recognises pupils will use the words in different ways. Some may reflect the words of the prayer in their own thoughts. Others, with no specific religious faith, will be able to reflect on the theme and the aspiration of the words without necessarily implying belief in a deity or conformity to a particular religious tradition.

Visitors

Visitors can enrich collective worship and build partnership with the local community. We invite members of faith communities, other ethical traditions and community groups to share in the programme. We ensure full safeguarding procedures are in place. Regular visitors to school who have access to children should have DBS enhanced disclosure. We will ensure that extremist or intolerant views, of any political or religious kind, will not be allowed in assemblies or elsewhere and we will follow appropriate safeguarding policies as appropriate.

Equal Opportunities

All children have an entitlement to access to Collective worship. All children will have access to appropriate resources within the school. These will reflect a multi-cultural society, without stereotyping or discrimination. We are mindful of the need to promote the inclusion of all protected characteristics and all children will be given the opportunity to participate in all activities.

Monitoring and Evaluation

- Pupil voice
- Staff feedback
- Governor monitoring
- Observation of assemblies
- Parent feedback where appropriate

This policy will be reviewed every two years or sooner if required.