



ASSEMBLY AND COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

Introduction

Assemblies and Collective Worship are times when the whole school, or groups within the school meet together in order to consider and reflect on common concerns, issues and interests in order to reflect on humanity and issues that affect our local and wider communities. It offers all pupils and staff an opportunity to worship through engaging in relevant, meaningful experiences and provides opportunities for spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

The Children in our school represent a variety of faiths but many practice no religion at home. Parents have the right, after consultation with the Headteacher, to withdraw their child from collective worship but it is hoped that they will share our aim of including all children in this important part of school life.

School Aims including Prevent Duty

Create an ethos with clear expectations and shared values ...

Provide a safe and happy school ...

Recognise and enhance potential ...

Encourage all the children to open their minds to new opportunities and challenges ...

- Ensuring that music and singing have a key role
- Valuing everyone's contribution
- Celebrating achievements and special times
- Developing awareness of creation and a sense of awe and wonder.
- Developing awareness of the needs of others.
- Encouraging an awareness of the needs of the wider community - giving of gifts on special occasions, e.g. Harvest and Christmas
- Respecting ourselves and others including those of different race, creed and culture
- Consider spiritual and moral issues
- Explore our own beliefs and those of others
- Develop our own spirituality
- Reinforce positive attitudes and behaviours
- Explore the world in which we live
- Develop a community spirit
- To have due regard to prevent the children in our care from being exposed to any form of extreme view – e.g. visits out of school and by visitors into school.
- To promote fundamental and positive British values in line with school policy.

Assemblies and collective worship provide a quiet space within a busy day for everyone to come together. Staff encourage a happy and positive attitude at these times ensuring Assemblies and Collective Worship contribute to the development of the pupil as a 'whole' person. Our school values underpin all we do and are referred to and discussed regularly.

Members of the community are encouraged to participate in our worship on special occasions and include parents, governors and friends. Members of local faith groups and other members of the community may also be invited to participate or lead. While our worship reflects a broadly Christian character, we encourage respect for and an understanding of all religions, faiths and cultures.

In addition to celebrating a variety of events we celebrate the festivals and holy days of the major world faiths and particularly try to involve children within the school who adhere to those faiths.

At the conclusion of the act of worship the children may be asked to spend a few moments in silence. They may be invited to listen to a prayer, poem or reading, or just to be silent and focus their thoughts on the theme of the worship.

Planning

Assemblies and collective worship are planned thematically each term by the RE Coordinator and members of the SLT and based on a variety of stimuli including religious festivals, the seasons and school celebrations and values. The content of all acts of Collective Worship will be considered carefully, to ensure relevance and suitability for the ages, aptitudes and backgrounds of all pupils. An expectation of increasing understanding and development are planned for within class/year group assemblies. A specific time allocation for collective worship is given in staff daily timetables.

A Typical Week of Assemblies (but not during covid or lockdown periods)

Monday: Headteacher-led Values Assembly

Tuesday: "Open the Book" led by a member of the teaching staff

Wednesday: House Point Assembly

Thursday: Year Group Assembly

Friday: Class or Singing Assembly

Assemblies during periods when the school is following covid procedures

The usual assembly timetable may not be followed as we would normally do. Assemblies may be pre recorded and watched in classrooms or individual year groups may have an assembly as a year group in the hall or another appropriate space.

Resources

Books/artefacts

Song books/tapes/CDs

Internet resources