

Introduction

Collective Worship provides an opportunity for all present to share and extend experiences of worthy or lasting significance. It allows scope for spiritual reflection, inner response and participation. It is an instrument for focusing upon shared concerns and values held in high regard, providing valuable time for worship, reverence, positive celebration and learning.

In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act which states that collective worship should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character' we normally base our assemblies on the teachings of Christ and traditions of the Christian Church. However, we also hold assemblies that reflect other religious traditions, mindful of others faiths and religions in our society and sensitive to those beliefs. We also have assemblies which reflect those values particular to our school community.

We expect all children to attend assembly. However, parents may request permission, in writing, for their child to be excused from Collective Worship and the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during this time.

Assembly is distinct from Religious Education provision but both may contribute to the other.

Aims

- To make the time of worship a valuable and educational time that can also be enjoyable and enjoyed.
- To enable children to consider spiritual and moral issues and provide a means of developing an appreciation that goes beyond the material world.
- To enable children to explore their own beliefs and their relationship to behaviour, the awe, wonder and mystery of the world, their feelings and emotions and to develop self-knowledge.
- To encourage participation and response, questioning and discussion
- To help pupils understand the world in which they live and the interdependence of every person, group and nation and to appreciate culture and religions within a multicultural and multi-faith society.
- To promote a sense of community spirit, a common ethos with shared values and to reinforce positive attitudes.
- To be inclusive; to respect and value every child.
- To celebrate all that is good.

On Thursdays (10.50am) we hold an Open the Book assembly whereby members from the clergy and lay community lead an act of worship based on stories from the Bible. This is usually dramatized and pupil participation is actively promoted. Families and the local community are also invited to attend this assembly.

Our praise assemblies, held half termly to which parents are invited, reflect the achievements and learning of the children. These assemblies offer an opportunity to acknowledge and reward children for these achievements. We also include opportunities

for our children to bring in awards and achievements which they have received outside of school such as swimming etc.

Worship is led primarily by teaching staff although there are occasional visitors eg. minister, members of the local and wider community.

Collective Worship is planned as part of a series of themes. These themes or values are listed and posted on the staff notice board. We think about one value each term which allows our thinking to be in greater depth.

Participation

Collective Worship should be conducted in a dignified and respectful manner. It is regarded as a special time and staff should expect children to behave appropriately. Active participation as well as focused listening are essential parts.

In the Collective Worship element of the assembly there should be time for personal reflection and time for worship. Children are asked to join in prayers if they wish but all children are required to respect the prayer and reflection time of others. Prayers are also said at lunchtime and at the end of the day.

Collective Worship may include a relevant song or hymn but this is at the discretion of the teacher leading the assembly.

Resources

Song books, text resources, candles and other artefacts, OHP, CD player and CD's are kept in the store room in the Hall. There are several cloths stored for covering the table used in assembly.

Monitoring and Review

This policy was reviewed and drawn up by the Head Teacher in October 2018