



POLICY ON COLLECTIVE WORSHIP AND ASSEMBLIES

Approved: June 2018
Review Date: June 2021

Statement about acts of collective worship and assemblies

Assemblies and Acts of Collective Worship are two distinct parts of school life.

Assemblies

- support and promote our policies on behaviour and self-esteem (see PSHCE policy);
- are a vehicle for moral or religious education;
- engender a feeling of belonging to a larger group;
- may provide an audience for achievements;
- may share and explain British values;
- are every day;
- may be compulsory for teachers and children;

Collective Worship is:

- compulsory unless children have been officially withdrawn;
- not necessarily when the whole school is gathered;
- is optional for teachers;
- a response at a personal level to an outside stimulus thus allowing pupils from different beliefs to participate;
- allows time for personal reflection;
- is non-denominational;
- broadly reflects Christian principles and tradition;
- sometimes include an Act of Worship;

Aims

Through Acts of Collective Worship and assemblies we aim to:

- promote positive attitudes and self esteem
- encourage children to:
 - be sensitive to the wonder and mystery of the world and people;
 - reflect on: their own experience; the experience of others; the universal aspects of experience - awe, mystery, pattern and order, personal worth, limitations, loss, grief and death;
 - explore values of human concern and their consequences for living; i.e. courage, justice, compassion, love, forgiveness, responsibility, care;
 - recognise and respect that people hold different beliefs and commitments;
 - develop awareness and experience of the use of symbols to express feelings and beliefs - light, darkness, wind, water, food, season, wood, stone etc;
 - express the values and concerns of the school community and the communities that it serves;
 - heighten awareness of 'a sense of commitment' and its consequences.

To achieve these aims, we:

Ensure assemblies and Acts of Worship:

- celebrate positive achievements of individuals and groups;
- are held in a quiet, thoughtful atmosphere, allowing the children to respond at a deeply personal level;

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- involve activities which allow children to respond prayerfully. These may include :
 - reflecting on the meaning and purpose of life;
 - pondering ultimate questions;
 - responding to challenge;
 - exploring religious ideas;
 - celebrating learning about religions;
 - learning from the experience of others;
 - meditating on a set prayer;
 - singing hymns or moral songs.

The Act of Worship is short and teachers may opt out if they wish by not making a personal response.

Approach

We use a variety of approaches for assemblies including; dance, meditation, song, reflection, music, listening, poetry, the spoken word, literature, art and drama.

Assemblies led by HT, SLT and teachers are organised round a given theme, co-ordinated by the Deputy Head. Resources for leading assemblies may be found in the staff room and LARC.

Friday Class assemblies

Each class takes one assembly during the year which:

- last no longer than 20 mins, sometimes including a hymn, prayer etc;
- enable each child in the class to participate once during the year;
- provide children with an audience to present work completed in class;

Parents are invited, but there is no pressure for a big production.

Commendation Assemblies

In Year Group Commendation assemblies a child from each class who has achieved something special is commended by a member of staff (usually a teacher) and their achievement is celebrated. Each week, the child's name and achievements are recorded; they receive a Headteacher's gold award sticker and are invited to tea with the Headteacher.

A second child per class is chosen for demonstrating their commitment to the School's Rights Respecting culture based upon UNICEF's RRS Standards. Each child chooses a coloured sticker and is awarded a certificate.

In addition a third child is chosen for their effort / achievements in maths that week and they receive a certificate.

The year group commendation assemblies also provide an opportunity to celebrate children's achievements outside of school. They are encouraged to share their success / awards with the rest of the year group and will then have their photo taken for the school newsletter.

Awards Assemblies

Awards Assemblies are held at the end of every half term (see PSHCE Policy section relating to celebrating achievement). One child per class is chosen to receive a Golden award, these children are invited to Golden Tea with the Headteacher. Other children from the year group receive awards in maths, reading, times tables and literacy on a rotation basis, two awards per half term. These children receive a small gift. All children receive a certificate in recognition of their hard work. Parents of these children are invited to attend these assemblies, although the award is generally kept a secret from the child.

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House Assemblies

The children meet in their House groups half termly.

These can be used to encourage participation in activities organised by House Captains and House Sports Captains, decide on fund raising activities for a charity of their choice, to encourage effort and promote belonging within their house.

Hymn Practice

This is taken by different year groups each week; children practise hymns/songs for their Friday assembly following a 5 minute collective worship. Once a half term this assembly is taken by 'ABC', a Christian group which covers Bible stories and the significance of Christian festivals.

Leaders of Assemblies

Assemblies may be led by the Headteacher, SLT, members of staff, visiting groups, including 'ABC' (Christian group), whole classes and groups of children.

Withdrawal from Assemblies or Collective Worship

If parents wish to withdraw a child from RE or Collective Worship for religious reasons, they should contact the Headteacher.

Teachers sometimes find it necessary to keep some children out of assembly in order to perform some other task in the classroom. This is acceptable if it is not the same children kept out of any one particular assembly on a regular basis.

Weekly Organisation of Assemblies

Day & Time	Time Allocation	Comments
Monday 10 -10.20	20 mins	Taken by HT or SLT following a value for the half term. Includes House point scores and messages.
Tuesday Time varies according to year group	15 mins	Commendation Assemblies in year groups Taken by Year Group Leaders
Wednesday 10 -10.20	20 minutes	Taken by teachers in turn following the British values, key themes and occasionally teachers' own interests.
Thursday 10 -10.20	5 mins for Act of Collective Worship 15 mins Hymn Practice	Taken by year groups in turn
Friday 10 -10.20	20 mins	Class Assembly on four occasions per term otherwise taken by Headteacher, Deputy Headteacher, Year Group Leaders.

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