



Collective Worship Policy

Key Document Details

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Legal Status of Collective Worship

All state-funded schools legally required to provide daily collective worship for registered pupils (apart from those who have been withdrawn by their parents). Bowerhill Primary School is a non-denominational, non-selective primary school. As such it is subject to the requirements of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 section 70 in ensuring opportunities for daily collective worship (commonly known as assemblies). Assemblies must be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character.

By broadly Christian at Bowerhill Primary School we mean that we will:

- create an atmosphere in which every child feels secure in their own beliefs and has respect for the beliefs of others, whilst acknowledging the broadly Christian traditions of the country
- provide opportunities to acknowledge and celebrate festivals of major world religions
- ensure that assembly topics are presented in relation to one or more religions (or from a moral or spiritual aspect), exploring key concepts common to Christianity and other religions, e.g., love, trust, forgiveness, mercy, humility, courage and integrity, respect for life, value of an individual, justice, co-operation and service, honesty, and truthfulness. The 1988 Education Reform Act requires that 'all pupils in attendance at a maintained school shall on each day take part in an act of Collective Worship'. We seek to do our best to keep the spirit of this legislation seeking to provide as many high-quality acts of worship as is practically possible.
- to provide pupils with variety in their experience of worship, acts of worship may take the form of a whole school act of worship for all pupils or separate acts of worship for students in different age groups or school groups. Collective Worship may be held at any time during the school day.

Withdrawal

In accordance with the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 section 71, parents have the right to withdraw their children from acts of collective worship on religious grounds. Parents should make their wishes known to the principal who will ensure that any pupils who are withdrawn are appropriately supervised while the act of collective worship takes place. Pupils can be withdrawn wholly or partly from acts of collective worship only by parents.

Aims of Assemblies

Assemblies can both reinforce and contribute to the ethos of the school, in addition offering a unique occasion in the school day to pause and explore life beyond the prescribed curriculum. It encourages members of the whole school community, teachers and learners together, to challenge assumptions and reflect upon issues which transcend normal day to day experiences. It can make a significant contribution to the ethos of the school by reinforcing and reflecting the beliefs and values which bind the school community together. It can inspire, uplift, celebrate and give a sense of purpose and direction. By enabling pupils to acknowledge the value of diversity in terms of race, gender, culture and differing abilities, it fosters inclusion, breeds tolerance and nurtures respect. It allows those with religious commitment to enter into worship, those who have no such commitment are offered an opportunity to sense what worship can mean and reflect personally.

1. To provide the opportunity for pupils to reflect on school values that is of a broadly Christian nature and on their own beliefs
2. To reflect and strengthen the caring ethos of the school.
3. To provide a special time in the school day for children to develop a reflective approach to life.
4. To encompass all aspects of school life and all areas of the curriculum so that every pupil and every member of staff may feel involved.
5. To develop their respect for other's feelings and beliefs.
6. To develop the feeling of belonging to a community and a shared understanding.
7. To develop thinking about moral and spiritual issues and questions regarding equality, social justice, human rights and conflict.
8. To celebrate and give thanks for the achievements within the school, local and international community and occasions of significance, including festivals.

The Contribution of assemblies to aspects of the Curriculum

Assembly time is distinct from curriculum time. However, assemblies will at times feature aspects of the curriculum, which will enhance the experiences of pupils by reflecting on the work done in classes. At times, assemblies will enrich classwork through its consideration of subject matter from different perspectives. To ensure assemblies provide opportunities for spiritual, moral, social and cultural development it should address a wide variety of themes and topics, use diverse stimuli and resources and provide pupils with the opportunity to 'respond' on their own level.

Planning Assemblies

The content of all assemblies will be considered carefully, to ensure relevance and suitability for the ages, aptitudes, and backgrounds of all pupils.

Assembly themes may include:

- School values (Respect, resilience, responsibility, creativity, courage, understanding)
- Fundamental British Values (democracy, individual liberty, mutual respect, tolerance of other cultures, rule of law)
- Cultural, religious or other important events (eg. Black History Month, Eid, Easter, World Book Day)
- Significant people who represent the school values
- E-safety
- Themes from Jigsaw (PSHE scheme of work)
- Visitors from the community
- Singing

Organisation of Assemblies

Monday- Whole school assembly, generally led by the Principal

Tuesday- Singing assembly, alternating between Key Stages

Wednesday- PSHE themed assembly based on Jigsaw themes

Friday- Whole school celebration assembly, generally led by the headteacher

Celebration Assemblies

One child from each class will receive a Star of the Week certificate based around a whole school theme. This theme will change weekly and will incorporate the strengths of all children throughout the school with the aim that each child receives the award at least once per year.

One child from each class will receive the Values Star for consistently demonstrating the school values.

One child per year group will receive the WOW award at the discretion of their class teacher.

We will also celebrate medals and awards from outside of school such as sporting or musical achievement.

Monitoring, Evaluation and Review

The school will review this policy annually and assess its implementation and effectiveness.