



Perdiswell Primary School

ASSEMBLY AND COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

Introduction

Assembly is a time when the whole school or part of it comes together for a specific purpose. On most occasions, assembly is a time when children, staff and any visitors worship together - collective worship. In addition to an act of worship, assembly time is also an opportunity to develop a culture of sharing, for example, pupils sharing their learning and achievements. It is also a time for giving out notices and information.

Aims and Objectives of Collective Worship

- To provide an opportunity for children to worship God
- To teach children how to worship
- To enable children to consider spiritual and moral issues
- To provide an opportunity to experience a sense of communion and community spirit
- To help children develop their own beliefs
- To enable children to explore their own beliefs and the beliefs of others
- To encourage participation and response
- To promote a common ethos, with shared values and to reinforce positive attitudes
- To provide an opportunity to experience silence and stillness
- To provide an opportunity for personal reflection

Collective Worship

In line with the Education Reform Act 1988, 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 the traditions of the Christian Church. However, we conduct our assemblies in a manner that is sensitive to the faiths and beliefs of all members of the school.

While most acts of worship in our school are Christian, we also hold assemblies that reflect the traditions of other religions that are represented in the school and the wider community.

Collective worship normally involves all members of the school participating together. Sometimes separate infant and junior assemblies are held.

Organisation of Assembly and Collective Worship

We hold a daily act of collective worship. This forms part of each day's assembly, which can be either a whole-school assembly or a smaller grouping of children e.g. infant, junior or class assemblies.

We conduct assemblies in a dignified and respectful way. We tell children that assembly time is a period of calm reflection. We regard it as a special time, and expect children to behave in an appropriate way. We ask them to be quiet and thoughtful, to listen carefully to the teachings, and to

participate fully in prayer and hymns. We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music, and sometimes candles, or other objects, to focus the attention of children.

The assemblies are normally conducted by the Head teacher or other members of staff, but are sometimes led by local clergy or other representatives of local religious groups.

We take the themes of our assemblies from the traditions of Christian faith, and we observe the festivals and mark the events of the Christian calendar. Sometimes the themes of our assemblies are related to topics that we teach as part of the school curriculum. We plan our assemblies well in advance of the day they take place.

Many of our assemblies reflect the achievements and learning of the children. We encourage the children to participate in the assemblies by showing their work to the other children, and by raising issues that they have discussed in their classes. Assemblies provide an opportunity to reward children for their achievements both in and out of school. They also play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school, which is that all children are valued, and all achievements are recognized. Perdiswell Primary School is a successful school, and we shall continue to celebrate the successes of all our children at our assemblies.

All classes host a class assembly during each academic year and all parents are invited to attend.

Governors attendance at assemblies is always welcome.

Right of Withdrawal

Parents have a right to withdraw their child from collective worship or part of that worship. At Perdiswell, parents should inform the Headteacher in writing if they wish to exercise this right.

The Head teacher will keep a record of all children who have been withdrawn from collective worship.

Monitoring and Review

Monitoring the policy and practice of collective worship is the role of the governing body who will liaise with and challenge the head teacher to ensure exemplary practice.

Joining Pupils in their Worship

If any parents/guardians would like to join the children in our acts of collective worship they would be very welcome to do so, but given the physical constraints of our hall we will only be able to accommodate a few parents at any one time. If you would like to do this please seek the permission of the head teacher a least a day beforehand.

Review Spring 2018