

Bill Quay Primary School



Rights, Respect and Resilience

Collective Worship Policy

Date written: April 2020

Collective Worship: an overview

Collective worship usually involves all members of the school coming together and participating in an assembly. We expect everyone to take an active part in the assembly. 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 the themes of our assemblies on the teachings of Christ and traditions of the Christian Church. However, we conduct our assemblies in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs of all members of the school. While the majority of acts of worship in our school are based on Christian principles, we also hold assemblies that reflect other religious traditions that are represented in the school and the wider community, as well as social, moral or topical issues. Our collective worship fits into the wider context of our approach to whole-school PSHE and RE teaching and learning.

Aims and Purpose

The aims and purpose of collective worship are:

- To show pupils how they might worship
- To provide an opportunity for the pupils to worship
- To enable pupils to consider spiritual and moral issues
- To enable pupils to explore their own beliefs
- To encourage participation and response
- To develop in pupils a sense of community spirit
- To promote a common ethos with shared values and to reinforce positive attitudes
- worship

At times, worship will reflect aspects of the curriculum and in particular will:

- Nurture spiritual growth
- Consider moral issues
- Enhance social understanding
- Explore beliefs from their own and different cultures.

Organisation of Collective Worship

We hold a daily act of collective worship in our school, organised as follows:

- Monday – Looking back in History
- Tuesday – Rights Respecting Assembly / PSHE
- Wednesday – Class Assembly / Explore Current Affairs
- Thursday – Singing Assembly
- Friday – Achievement assembly

Class presentations are organised on a rota basis throughout the year. We conduct assemblies in a dignified and respectful way and use assembly time to encourage the pupils to reflect. We regard it as a special time and expect pupils to behave in an appropriate way. Therefore, we ask them to

be quiet, thoughtful, listen carefully to the teachings / ideas / themes and participate fully in prayer/reflection and hymns. We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music or other objects that act as a focal point for the attention of the pupils.

Bill Quay Primary School encourages members from the local clergy or other representatives of local religious groups to conduct acts of collective worship during each academic year. In at least two of our assemblies, we take the themes from the traditions of the Christian faith and we often reflect the festivals and events of the Christian calendar, such as Harvest, Christmas and Easter. Sometimes the themes of our assemblies reflect and build on topics that we teach as part of the school curriculum, such as anti-bullying. We plan our assemblies as part of a series of themes and link these themes with the UNCRC (United Nations Convention on the Right of the Child) and our PHSE curriculum. Further details on Assembly topics and stimuli can be found in the Appendix to this policy.

Awards and Celebrations

Our assemblies also reflect the achievements and learning of the pupils. We encourage the pupils to participate in assemblies, sometimes by showing their learning outcomes to the other pupils and raising issues that they have discussed in their classes. Assemblies offer an opportunity to acknowledge and reward pupils for their achievements both in and out of schools. They play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school, which is that all pupils are valued and all achievements are recognised. We welcome Governors' attendance at our assemblies at any time, and at appropriate times throughout the year, parents / carers are also invited into school to celebrate learning, achievements, milestones and festivals.

We regularly celebrate the following achievements:

- Responsible Citizen Award - awarded on a weekly basis during Achievement Assembly
- Achievement Certificates – awarded to at least one pupil from every class for their effort and success in a specifically defined area of the curriculum each week
- Musicians are given regular opportunities to perform
- Athletics achievers receive their certificates each week
- Lexia achievers receive their certificates each week

Right to Withdraw

We expect all pupils to attend assembly. However, any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from attending religious worship and the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during the period concerned. Parents do not have to explain or give reasons for this. This complies with the 1944 Education Act and was restated in the 1988 Education Reform Act. The Head teacher keeps a record of all pupils who withdraw from collective worship.

Safety

When large numbers of pupils are in the hall, it is important that all exits are clear and not blocked by furniture. Pupils moving from the hall should do so under supervision and should walk quietly in class lines. If the fire alarm rings, pupils should follow protocol and leave by the nearest exit and assemble on the Key Stage 1 yard.

Monitoring and Review

The SMSC team leader is available to provide help, support and ideas to any member of staff in planning and delivering acts of collective worship on a class, phase or whole school level. Although the sole responsibility for collective worship lies with the Senior Leadership Team, the SMSC leader will ensure this policy is implemented and new ideas, guidance and legal requirements are cascaded to the staff. It is the role of Jane Kitson (named School Governor with responsibility for Religious Education and collective worship) to monitor this policy and its practice. The named governor liaises with the Head teacher before reporting to the Full Governing Body on Religious Education and collective worship. Resources will be reviewed on an annual basis.

Equal Opportunities

Article 14 of the UNCRC states all pupils have the right to practise their own religion and beliefs. It is the responsibility of all teachers at Bill Quay Primary School to ensure that all pupils irrespective of ability, race, gender, age, faith, sexual orientation, and disability are given full access to Acts of Collective Worship, and all members of staff work hard to ensure that all pupils have this entitlement.

Appendix.

1. Stimuli used to facilitate Collective Worship:

- Song
- Stories
- Personal experiences
- Unicef Rights of the Child (RRSA)
- Reflections/meditations
- Prayer
- Readings – sacred/secular writings
- Music – instrumental/vocal
- Dance
- Drama
- Video
- Poetry
- Interviews
- Quotations
- Silence
- Artefacts
- Pupil participation
- Question and answer sessions

2. Assembly Themes

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Advent• Caring• Changes• Christmas• Common sense• Courage• Divali• Each Day different, every day new• Easter• Endings• Families• Feelings• Food• Friends• Gifts• Happiness• Harvest and Autumn• Holidays	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Kindness• Listening• Mothering Sunday• Neighbours• New and old• Our senses• Our talents• Ourselves• Partners• People• Persistence• Promises• Remembrance Day• Responsibility• Rules• Sharing• Sports and exercise• Spring
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- Homes
- Honesty
- Journeys
- Rights and Respect (Unicef)

- Summer
- Thinking ahead
- Treasures / precious things
- Winter