

ASSEMBLY AND COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

Legal Requirements

All maintained schools must provide daily collective worship for all registered pupils.

Collective worship in community schools must be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character, though not distinctive of any particular Christian denomination.

Timing and organisation of daily collective worship can be flexible. An act of worship may be held for the whole school or for groups of children.

Parents may request that a child be excused from attendance at collective worship. Teachers may also withdraw from acts of collective worship, but may be required to supervise children not attending.

Definitions

1. Collective Worship

This must reflect something special or separate from ordinary school activities and it should be concerned with reverence or veneration paid to a divine being or power. It should be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character.

2. Assembly

This is a distinct activity from collective worship although the two can take place at the same gathering.

An assembly can be used as a starting point for work to be continued in the classroom or as a follow-up to work already begun, but it can only be classed as teaching time if there is evidence of the content being planned, activities being differentiated, outcomes being assessed and recorded.

Aims of Collective Worship and Assembly at Roach Vale

1. To make children aware of the wonder and beauty of the world in which they live.
2. To raise awareness of the place they have in the world and the importance of relationships.
3. To develop and reinforce positive attitudes to the needs of others.
4. To provide children with the opportunity to worship God.
5. To provide opportunity to consider spiritual and moral issues and to explore their own beliefs.
6. To provide opportunity for participation and response both through active involvement in the presentation of worship and response, and through listening to and joining in the worship offered.
7. To develop community spirit, promote a common ethos and shared values.

Pattern for Assemblies and Collective Worship

- Monday whole school key values or British values assembly
- Tuesday Circle time assembly in class base
- Wednesday House Assemblies
- Thursday Reading/Singing Assembly (on fortnightly rota)
- Friday whole school Celebration assembly

Each assembly must include an act of collective worship where the children are given the opportunity to worship God.

Each assembly should last no more than 15 minutes.

Equal opportunities

All children in our care, regardless of gender, race or religious background, or Special Educational Needs, are entitled to attend assembly and daily acts of collective worship. However, parents can request that their children are withdrawn from the act of collective worship, in which case a child's entitlement to equal opportunities is affected. Withdrawal from assembly is not permissible as this forms part of the school curriculum.

Assessment, recording and reporting.

Assessment of the child's understanding and developing attitudes will be done by the class teacher over a period of time.

A note will be kept of any child who withdraws from the act of worship.

Resources

Books for themes/ideas/stories/prayers etc for assemblies and acts of worship are located in Head's office but may be borrowed by any member of staff.

Included in these are the Stanley Thorne Blueprint assembly packs and the Primary School Assembly Files. CDs are kept by the CD player in the hall.

Monitoring and Evaluation of the Assembly and Collective Worship Policy.

This is the responsibility of the Headteacher. Monitoring will be ongoing throughout the year and will focus on the achievement of the aims of the policy. The policy will be evaluated annually and developed as necessary.