

BRIZE NORTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

Aims and Purpose

The aims and purpose of collective worship are:

- to promote a common ethos with shared values
- to develop in children a sense of community (school, village, national and world)
- to reinforce positive attitudes
- to celebrate differences and similarities and to encourage respect for cultures different from our own.
- To increase sensitivity to the mystery in life and to encourage a reflective approach to life.
- To encourage children to think and to question and to develop a moral code.
- To create an atmosphere where worship and reflection can take place.

Collective worship is a time when the whole school, or part of the school, comes together to celebrate shared beliefs, values and successes. It is an important part of each day and contributes to spiritual, moral, personal and social development.

Collective Worship

In line with the 1998 Education Reform Act, 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, reflecting on the broad traditions of Christian belief e.g. love as the central ethic, respect for the individual etc. We do however, conduct assemblies in a manner that is sensitive to other faiths and beliefs. We acknowledge that not all children have Christian beliefs or backgrounds.

Organisation of Collective Worship

We hold a daily assembly in our school. This is normally whole school although classes meet for Key Stage assemblies once a week.

We believe assemblies are an important time and keep an assembly routine to help children recognise this. We expect children to behave in an appropriate way. We tell children that assembly is a time for listening, thinking and reflecting. We encourage children to join in with the assembly through use of talk partners, questions, song and drama.

The headteacher or other members of staff conduct the assemblies. Our assembly themes link with our PSHCE work in classrooms and our school values. We also link our themes to traditions of the Christian faith and we often reflect the festivals and key events in the Christian or school calendar. Our assembly themes are planned and agreed at the start of each term. Once a fortnight, a member of the clergy leads a whole school assembly. Often throughout the year we are fortunate to be able to invite visitors to speak in assembly.

Some assemblies reflect the achievements and learning of the children. Assemblies offer an opportunity to acknowledge and reward children for their successes both in and out of school. They play an important role in promoting the ethos of the school, which is that all children are valued and their opinions respected.

We invite parents to celebration assemblies once a term and to class assemblies twice a year.

Format

Each assembly starts with a piece of music used throughout the week and chosen by a group of children. It includes a story, poem or information often with a hymn or song. Some assemblies include a prayer. A variety of resources are used including artefacts, curriculum materials, books, and website.

Right of withdrawal

We expect all children 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 arrangement for the supervision of the child during the period concerned. This complies with the 1944 Education Act and was reinstated in the 1988 Education Reform Act. A record will be kept of all children who are withdrawn from collective worship.

Monitoring and review

It is the role of the headteacher to monitor the policy and practice of collective worship.

June 2008