

The venue Infant School

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP AND ASSEMBLY POLICY

Adopted:

Signed on behalf of the Governing Body: Mr Stewart Miller

Position: Chair of Governors

Date: 12.10.2021

Review date:

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP AND ASSEMBLY POLICY

Statutory Duty of Schools for Collective Worship

All maintained schools provide daily collective worship for registered pupils (apart from those who have been **withdrawn by their parents**). This is usually provided within a daily assembly.

The head teacher is responsible (under the School Standards and Framework Act 1998) for arranging the daily collective worship after consulting with the governing body. Daily collective worship must be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character. The precise nature will depend on the family background, ages and abilities of the pupils.

All parents, carers and staff - after consultation with the headteacher and based on their religious beliefs and practices, have the right to withdraw their child or themselves from assemblies and/or collective worship if they so wish.

The nature of Collective Worship at The Avenue Infant School

‘Collective Worship’ is a time when the whole school or groups within the school meet together to engage in relevant, meaningful experiences, providing opportunities for the pupils’ spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

At The Avenue Infant School, collective worship is set within the context of ‘Assemblies’ – which may include other features besides those required of collective worship.

Aims and Purpose

During collective worship we aim to:

- Fulfil statutory requirements of a daily act of collective worship for all pupils.
- Reflect on values that are of a broadly Christian character and on our own beliefs.
- Allow a pause for reflection and stillness in the midst of the pressure of the school day.
- Develop a community spirit, a common ethos and shared values.
- Provide a variety of opportunities for spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.
- Provide opportunities for expressing shared experiences and interests and for celebrating special occasions together.
- Provide opportunities in which pupils interact with other year groups, staff and on occasions the wider community, as well as offering opportunities to perform and respond to a presentation of readings, music, dance, drama or prayer.

Prayer

Reading a prayer can be appropriate as long as the integrity of all those present is respected. Prayer may be part of the period of reflection and stillness with children invited to participate in prayer if they wish.

The following phrases may be used: 'Now, a time of stillness and quiet, a chance to think or pray for a moment.'

Every effort is made to show sensitivity towards personal faiths and to include all pupils and staff in collective worship. For example, when using a prayer from a particular faith, this will be introduced with sensitivity and pupils will not be required to say or affirm prayers which they do not believe.

A prayer may be introduced like this: I am going to read a Christian (Hindu, Buddhist.....) prayer. I would like you to think carefully about the words. Some of you might wish to make the words your own (Christians might do this by saying 'Amen').

Singing

The act of singing can be a very positive opportunity for celebration or reflection. The selection of songs will respect the integrity of those present.

In order to comply with the law, Singing assemblies will include an opportunity for pupils to reflect on some of the words they are singing and to respond through a moment of quietness or prayer in an atmosphere that is one of reverence.

Collective Worship Weekly Timetable

Assemblies are normally conducted by the Headteacher, deputy head or other members of Staff, but are sometimes led by visitors to the school e.g. members of the local community, faith leaders

Planning Acts of Collective Worship

- ★ The content of all acts of Collective Worship will be considered carefully, to ensure relevance and suitability for the ages, aptitudes and backgrounds of all pupils.
- ★ Termly planning sheets (*Appendix 1*) list themes, special occasions and events, but will be flexible to allow the inclusion of current and topical issues. Together with weekly planning and recording sheets (*Appendix 2*), these will ensure that there is continuity and progression, and enable the monitoring and evaluation of acts of worship to take place.
- ★ The school Values will be interwoven into the planning and progression via a cycle of focus values, ensuring a regular reflection on the common ethos.
- ★ Visitors will be welcome to lead Collective Worship from time to time and will be given guidance (*Appendix 3*) on acts of Collective Worship at The Avenue Infant School. Leaders from Faiths within the area will increase the pupils' awareness, promote respect and raise the esteem of the pupils who belong to these Faiths.

Leadership

Every member of the school staff and occasional visitors will be involved in leading acts of worship at some point in the school year.

Implementation

Collective worship, whether in assembly or class time, will:

- ★ strive to be acceptable to the whole community, staff and pupils
- ★ include a variety of elements at different times
- ★ involve the pupils.

Assemblies

- ★ Assemblies should last for 15 minutes ideally, but some may occasionally take 20 minutes. Celebration assembly may last 20 minutes each week.
- ★ Each assembly theme should be carefully chosen and planned to ensure that all children can be included most of the time.
- ★ Parents of all children have opportunity to view the plans to see whether the content is suitable or not for their child to participate.
- ★ Class teachers will take responsibility for ensuring that children, whose parents have asked, are withdrawn from assembly and/or collective worship.
- ★ School is responsible for supervising all withdrawn children during normal assembly time and collective worship, but not for providing them with an alternative to worship or assembly. Where the act of worship takes place off the school site the school will communicate with parents to ensure the child is cared for by a family member.
- ★ If an assembly does not take place on a given day, it is the class teacher's responsibility to ensure that an act of worship takes place in the classroom or year base.

Assembly format and procedures

MONDAY	WHOLE SCHOOL ASSEMBLY	MAIN THEME
TUESDAY	WHOLE SCHOOL ASSEMBLY	MAIN THEME
WEDNESDAY	WHOLE SCHOOL ASSEMBLY	SINGING
THURSDAY	CLASS BASED ASSEMBLY	MAIN THEME
FRIDAY	WHOLE SCHOOL ASSEMBLY	CELEBRATION

Each assembly runs along similar lines.

<i>As the children enter -</i>	The children come in and sit down quietly to the accompaniment of music and / or a question / image for reflection.
<i>Once the children are settled -</i>	The main assembly focus begins.
<i>At the end of the main assembly focus -</i>	A time for reflection or prayer takes place.
<i>When the opportunity for reflection or prayer has ended -</i>	The children lead out of the hall a class at a time. They may sing a previously learnt assembly song or lead out to a piece of music.

Monitoring, Evaluation and Review

The school will review this policy regularly and assess its implementation and effectiveness. The policy will be promoted and implemented throughout the school.

APPENDIX 1:

PLANNING ASSEMBLIES OVER THE YEAR- *sample of a year overview*

AUTUMN 1

WEEK 1	WEEK 2	WEEK 3	WEEK 4	WEEK 5	WEEK 6	WEEK 7	WEEK 8
VALUES-OVERVIEW	VALUE- Responsibility			VALUE- Kindness			
BUILDING ON FIRM FOUNDATIONS	BEING SAFE OUTSIDE ROSH HASHANAH JEWISH NEW YEAR WORLD LITERACY DAY	BEING READY FOR SCHOOL AND LEARNING YOM KIPPUR (JEWISH) 16 th sept	AUTUMN-FRUIT AND NUTS, TREE CHANGES RECYCLE WEEK SUKKOT – JEWISH HARVEST	THE GOTCHA SMILE HELPING OTHERS- NEW RECEPTION, BEING ROLE MODELS	ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI-kindness WORLD MENTAL HEALTH DAY NATIONAL POETRY DAY	WORLD FOOD DAY THE WORK OF THE FARMER AND HARVEST	THE WORK OF THE FARMER AND HARVEST HARVEST

AUTUMN 2

Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5	Week 6	Week 7
VALUE- Respect			VALUE- Perseverance			
BONFIRE NIGHT SAFETY DIWALI (25-29 OCT)	REMEMBRANCE DAY (11 NOV) ANTI-BULLYING WEEK CHILDREN IN NEED STORY	GOLDEN RULES STORY- WE LISTEN GOOD MANNERS HONESTY- THE BOY WHO CRIED WOLF	ASPIRATION / INSPIRATION GOALS / DREAMS	GOLDEN RULES STORY- WE WORK HARD ADVENT	THE CHRISTMAS STORY CHRISTMAS AROUND THE WORLD	CHRISTMAS REHEARSALS

SPRING 1

WEEK 1	WEEK 2	WEEK 3	WEEK 4	WEEK 5	WEEK 6	WEEK 7
VALUE- Confidence				VALUE- Responsibility		
RESOLUTIONS	WE ARE ALL DIFFERENT-STORY GOLDEN RULE STORY (WE WORK HARD) SEAL STORY- Going For Goals	PAUL / BARNABAS-SAME BUT DIFFERENT PERSONAL SAFETY (cf PSHE)	GOLDEN RULE STORY- WE ARE HONEST THE BOY WHO CRIED WOLF	THE GOOD SAMARITAN- be determined to do the right thing PERSONAL SAFETY- FIRE SAFETY, ONLINE SAFETY (cf PSHE)	NOAH'S ARK CHINESE NEW YEAR SAFER INTERNET DAY	ZACHEUS THE WISE MAN AND THE FOOLISH MAN PARABLE

SPRING 2

WEEK 1	WEEK 2	WEEK 3	WEEK 4	WEEK 5	WEEK 6
VALUE- Kindness			VALUE- Respect		
WELCOME BACK-STORY-SHOWING KINDNESS TO EACH OTHER ST DAVID (1 ST)	SHROVE TUESDAY ASH WEDNESDAY / LENT WORLD BOOK DAY	CARING FOR ANIMALS CARING FOR OTHERS / CHARITY RED NOSE DAY /COMIC RELIEF	SIGNS OF SPRING ST. PATRICK'S DAY (17 TH) HOLI (21 st)	MY AMAZING FAMILY FAMILY CELEBRATION (FRIDAY)	PALM SUNDAY EASTER STORY

SUMMER 1

WEEK 1	WEEK 2	WEEK 3	WEEK 4	WEEK 5
VALUE- <u>Perseverance</u>			VALUE- <u>Confidence</u>	
ST. GEORGE THE QUEEN	GOLDEN RULES STORY- WE WORK HARD New challenges WHAT IS MAY DAY?	TALENTS AND SKILLS EID-AL-FITR HEALTHY LIVING- TEETH, HYGIENE	SHARING WORRIES SKILLS / TALENTS SHARED TOGETHER GOLDEN RULES STORY- WE ARE HONEST STORY OF MOSES RED SEA 10 COMMANDMENTS	ALL DIFFERENT, ALL SPECIAL THE LOST SHEEP PARABLE FAMILY NETWORKS- LISTENING / SHARING

SUMMER 2

WEEK 1	WEEK 2	WEEK 3	WEEK 4	WEEK 5	WEEK 6	WEEK 7	WEEK 8
VALUE- <u>Responsibility</u>				VALUE- <u>all</u>			
WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY WATER SAVING CARING FOR OTHERS	ROAD SAFETY MY SPECIAL FAMILY- FATHER'S DAY SUN SAFETY	GOLDEN RULE STORY SELFISHNESS KEEPING SAFE & HEALTHY	WINNING AND LOSING, TRYING YOUR BEST WORKING AS A TEAM CHOICES-	GROWING UP AND MOVING ON WHAT WE'VE ACHIEVED	MOVING ON		SUMMER READING CHALLENGE LEAVERS

APPENDIX 2- Weekly plan- sample

WEEK BEGINNING – MONDAY 21st SEPTEMBER (AUTUMN 1 WEEK 4)

<u>MAIN THEME:</u> GOOD MANNERS AUTUMN EID		<u>OBJECTIVES</u> 1. For children to be look after each other, be considerate, recognise and show good manners 2. For children to recognise the wonder of the changing seasons 3. For children to be know about the Muslim celebration of Eid
MAIN ASSEMBLY – CONTEXT		REFLECTION/PRAYER
2.45-3.00 MONDAY – HALL ASSEMBLY -		
KINDNESS AND GOOD MANNERS		Dear God, Please help me to be kind and look after others. Help us remember to show respect for others and be a good role model by showing good manners. Amen.
2.45-3.00 TUESDAY - HALL ASSEMBLY -		
SIGNS OF AUTUMN		Dear God, Thank you for our beautiful world- the trees, plants and animals that are preparing for the colder weather. Help us to appreciate these changes. Amen.
2.45-3.00 WEDNESDAY -		
SINGING ASSEMBLY Harvest songs		Dear God, We all have lovely voices. Help us to use them in happy and kind ways always. Amen.
2.24-3.00 THURSDAY - CLASS ASSEMBLY –		
CLASS ASSEMBLY ‘Big Eid’- (Eid-ul-Adha)		Dear God, Today we remember your kindness and goodness as we try to live that way. Help us / our friends to enjoy the Eid celebrations. Amen
2.00 FRIDAY – CELEBRATION ASSEMBLY -		
CELEBRATION ASSEMBLY BIRTHDAYS, AWARDS FROM HOME, SPECIAL AWARDS		Dear God, Thank you for our friends at school. Help us to always remember to treat others well. Be kind and caring and a good friend. Thank you for everything we have had to celebrate this week. Amen.
YEAR R		
YEAR 1		
YEAR 2		

APPENDIX 3- GUIDANCE ON USING VISITORS TO DELIVER ASSEMBLIES

- Visitors from faith backgrounds, would usually reflect the diversity of the school community or else to give the children an understanding of the diversity of cultures in Britain beyond their experience. There will be an attempt to maintain balance wherever possible.
- Visitors may also be from the local community, groups, individuals or charities, or national charities / organisations
- Visitors will usually be recommended / known to staff, where this is not the case a more thorough initial conversation will take place to ensure the appropriateness of the assembly content
- Visitors are expected to deliver messages in line with our school ethos, to uphold and promote the fundamental principles of British values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect, and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs and in line with our Prevent obligation
 - Extract from Prevent Risk Assessment: *The school exercises 'due diligence' in relation to requests from external speakers and organisation using school premises. Action: Request an outline of what the speaker intends to cover. Research the person/organisation to establish whether they have demonstrated extreme views/actions.* (Prevent Risk Assessment for The Avenue Infant School, 2021)
- Visitor assemblies will always be supervised by staff who will intervene if content is felt to be inappropriate or contradict the principles outlined above
- It is not expected that any visitor assemblies will necessitate a charge to the school
- Visitors will be passed the usual safeguarding leaflet with key information for visitors and students. As non-DBS checked adults, visitors will not be alone with pupils, in accordance with the school's Safeguarding and Child Protection policies.