

Bishop's Waltham Junior School:

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY:

Aims and Principles

An important part of the children's day at school is the opportunity to join together in a collective act of worship.

Aims:

1. To develop spiritual awareness.
2. To develop the children's knowledge of Christian beliefs, celebrations, traditions and patterns of worship.
3. To develop social and moral values.
4. To develop the feeling of belonging to a caring community.
5. To provide an opportunity for reflection and stillness.
6. To develop awareness and respect for other beliefs, traditions, cultures and patterns of worship.
7. To provide time for celebration of and reflection about things that are held to be of worth.
8. To fulfil the requirements of the 1988 Education Reform Act.

Main Aspects of Policy and Procedures

1. There will be an assembly daily.

Monday (2.50pm), Wednesday (2.50pm) and Friday (2.45pm –
Whole School Assembly
Tuesday & Thursday - Class Assembly
2. The act of worship will be lead by a member of the teaching staff, by a visitor, or through a class assembly.
3. The majority of the acts of worship will be based on the broad principles and values of Christianity.

Topics covered will be the life of Jesus, Old and New Testament Bible stories, festival, seasons and important Christian leaders as well as stories and festivals from other faiths. Social and moral themes.

4. The act of worship will provide opportunities for the participants to:-
 - Focus on a particular issue
 - Reflect on a theme or idea
 - Respond on a theme or idea
 - Respond in a thoughtful manner
 - Revere or have reverence for a divine being.
5. Issues will be explored through listening to stories, singing, prayers, movement, silence, stillness, pictures, artefacts, sharing children's work, remembering and discussing.
6. There will be an agreed annual programme of themes and subjects.
7. Each year group will take responsibility for leading an assembly at various points throughout the year.

CONCLUSION

- A collective act of worship is an integral part of the school curriculum.
- No assumptions will be made about their personal commitment.
- All personal beliefs will be respected.
- All parents have the right to withdraw their children from the collective act of worship.

Agreed practice and procedures:

The whole school assemblies will begin and end with a piece of music. This music will support the Music Curriculum and will include music from other countries and cultures and will include examples of traditional and contemporary music.

There will be a programme of themes.

There will be an opportunity for response to the theme in a variety of ways:

- singing
- prayer
- drama
- movement
- stillness

There will be a period of quiet reflection or prayer.

The children will leave the assembly quietly and in an orderly way.

