



Whitley Park Primary and Nursery School Assemblies and Act of Collective Worship Policy

Agreed: November 2017	Review: November 2020	
	Signed	Date
Head teacher		

An assembly is when the school community meets together to share and celebrate aspects of life that are of worth. In school assemblies everyone makes a contribution through their presence. The children are aware that all staff participate in assembly and staff act as role models for the children to emulate. Assemblies are an opportunity for children to develop values and aspirations of the human spirit.

We believe that assemblies and celebrations contribute to the wholeness of the school community giving children a valued, structured environment in which to learn. We believe this makes the quality of learning better with life skills and values absorbed into our school life each and every day. We believe the ethos of our school is built on a foundation of core values which are underlined in our assembly themes throughout the year. These values include love, honesty, responsibility, humility, co-operation, freedom, unity, respect, happiness, tolerance and peace.

Aims

Through assemblies we aim to:

- create, nurture and sustain a sense of community
- develop a positive school ethos that affirms the school identity and aspirations
- celebrate festivals together
- celebrate and share children's contributions
- underpin the cohesive harmony of the school
- appreciate and share different ways of worshipping
- reflect on issues important to the school community
- provide opportunities to reflect, consider, question, celebrate, acknowledge
- enable pupils to reflect upon the work they are doing in school
- enable all pupils to feel valued and to provide opportunities to bring families, friends and carers into the life of the school
- acknowledge the range of beliefs in the school and in the wider society, and to promote respect for these beliefs.
- provide opportunities through stories, poems, songs, prayers, artefacts, to introduce literature and festivals of faith
- develop moral education through relevant and topical issues

Role of reflection

The practice of reflection helps children to focus on aspects of themselves that they can value and build on. We aim to create stillness and silence for a short period in each assembly or during a daily mindfulness session in class. Silent reflection creates an appropriate atmosphere in assembly or in the classroom that is conducive to personal reflection.

Statutory Duty

In keeping with the Education Reform Act 1988, all statutory school age children at Whitley Park Primary and Nursery School take part in an act of collective worship every day either in an assembly or in the classroom.

Parents may request that their child be withdrawn on religious grounds, from assemblies. Assemblies are planned to celebrate the range of different faiths represented in our school.