



Collective Worship/Assembly Policy

Rationale

Collective Worship at Stubbings is mainly of a broadly Christian character focusing on moral awareness, empathy, respect, responsibility and understanding of each other.

Aims

Through our Assemblies and Collective Worship we aim

- To increase the children's knowledge and understanding of different faiths, cultures and communities.
- to promote spiritual, moral, social and cultural development
- to enable children to explore their own beliefs
- To develop shared values and reinforce positive values.
- To explore children's relationships with others and encourage empathy with them.
- To examine children's thoughts and feelings and thereby further their understanding of their own emotions.
- To develop children's self esteem.
- To show children what contribution they can make to the world around them.
- To foster children's sense of belonging; a sense of unity and community spirit
- To encourage curiosity, care and concern about the environment.
- To invite representatives from all faiths to share values and experiences with all children.
- For all children to be included in assemblies as appropriate to their need.

Inclusion and Equality

Collective Worship is intended to be appropriate for and to include all the pupils at Stubbings of statutory school age (subject to the right of withdrawal).

All pupils have an entitlement to Collective Worship, which should reflect the diverse nature of the school, the local community and wider contemporary society. Collective worship should be inclusive of all pupils, and steps will be taken to enable them to access this. A variety of teaching and learning styles and active and interactive methods are appropriate in acts of Collective Worship.

Collective worship

Collective Worship is a special time during the school day and involves the school coming together. The word 'worship' has a wide range of meanings and forms of expression. For some people this will be personal devotion to God; for others it might mean reflection on and understanding of those elements of life which are of value and worth.

In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act, which states that collective worship should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character'. However, we conduct our assemblies in a manner that is sensitive to the faiths and beliefs of all members of the school and where appropriate we will ensure we are inclusive of all faiths

Organisation and Management

We conduct assemblies in a dignified and respectful way. We tell children that assembly time is a period of calm reflection. We regard it as a special time, and expect children to behave in an appropriate way. We ask them to be quiet and thoughtful. We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music, and sometimes candles or other objects, to focus the attention of the children.

The assemblies are normally conducted by the headteacher or other members of staff, but are sometimes led by local clergy or other representatives of local religious groups.

We take the themes of our assemblies from the traditions of the Christian and other major faiths, and we observe the festivals and mark the events of the Religious calendar. The themes of our assemblies are related to the SEAL programme that we teach as part of the school curriculum. We plan our assemblies well in advance of the day they take place.

Our assemblies reflect the achievements and learning of the children. We encourage the children to participate in the assemblies by showing their work to the other children, and by raising issues that they have discussed in their classes. Assemblies provide an opportunity to reward children for their achievements both in and out of school. They also play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school.

Governors' attendance at our assemblies is always welcome.

Whole school assemblies take place on Tuesday and Thursday and class assemblies are held on Monday and Friday. On Wednesday, the whole school join together for a Family Celebration Assembly where achievements are celebrated.

Children in Nursery are gradually introduced to whole school assemblies through visits during the year. Reception children are introduced gradually; up until the end of the Autumn Term, to whole school assemblies

Right of Withdrawal

We expect all children to attend assembly. However, any family can request permission for their child to be excused from religious worship, and the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during that part of the assembly. Families do not have to explain or give reasons for their request, but they must put their request in writing to the Head Teacher. The headteacher will discuss their concerns with them. This right of withdrawal complies with the 1944 Education Act, and was restated in the 1988 Education Reform Act. The Head Teacher keeps a record of all children who have been withdrawn from collective worship.

Concerns and Complaints

Any concerns or complaints should be handled under the school's usual procedures. If this cannot be resolved, a complaint may be taken to SACRE, as the local authority's statutory body, at the appeal stage

Written/ amended: February 2016
Next review date: February 2019

Appendix

Useful websites

General assemblies

BBC radio <http://www.bbc.co.uk/schoolradio/subjects/collectiveworship>

Culham St Gabriel's Trust <http://cowo.culham.ac.uk/>

Schools Linking Network www.schoolslinkingnetwork.org.uk
www.assemblies.org.uk

Assembly Ideas - Teaching Ideas www.teachingideas.co.uk/more/assemblies

TES www.tes.co.uk/assemblies-whole-school-teaching-resources

World Class - BBC – Assemblies - www.bbc.co.uk/worldclass/assemblies

Calendars of religious festivals

<http://www.shapworkingparty.org.uk/calendar.html> £4

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/religion/tools/calendar> BBC Calendar

http://www.ljmu.ac.uk/Academic_Enhancement/Academic_Enhancement_Docs/CIPD_Diversity_Calendar_2013.pdf

See attached half termly planning for assemblies 2015-2016