

Ravenswood Community Primary School Collective Worship Policy

Introduction

The School complies with the requirements set out in the 1988 Education Reform Act regarding Collective Worship. At Ravenswood School the majority of the Acts of Collective Worship will be mainly of a broadly Christian character with one day a week given to reflect on other faiths and cultures. If that is unacceptable to those children who follow a different faith, parents may request that their children be withdrawn from collective worship. This information is conveyed to parents in the School Prospectus.

Assemblies and other acts of collective worship contribute significantly to the delivery of some aspects of the National Curriculum - particularly 'Citizenship', 'Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development' and certain aspects of the Personal, Social, Health and Education course (PSHE.). These are all realms which pupils have an entitlement to experience throughout their education.

An Act of Collective Worship takes place every morning, with either the whole school or a group of children gathering in the hall/classrooms. A Celebration assembly takes place on Friday to recognise special achievements. We follow themes in assembly, the length of these vary. Where possible themes are linked to work being carried out in PSHE or other areas of the curriculum or reflect topics we feel are relevant and timely such as Anti-Bullying or Racism.

There are three fundamental principles underlying the provision of our acts of Collective Worship. These principles are broadly outlined below:

- 1) Inclusive in nature;
- 2) Broadly educational in content;
- 3) Specifically Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural in content.

Inclusive - this means that we want our assemblies to:

- recognise and celebrate the diversity of cultures, life styles and religions which exist in our multicultural society.
- have an atmosphere in which everyone feels valued and safe;
- be suitable for every child to attend unless withdrawn by his/her parents/carers;
- focus on issues and experiences which are relevant to the children;
- include active participation by pupils, parents and members of the local, and wider, community – either in preparation or in performance.

Educational - this means that we want our assemblies to:

- reflect the aims of the School, and foster a sense of shared values;
- be a valuable learning experience
- to enhance, complement and extend the curricular work;
- to provide an opportunity to celebrate the academic, social, personal or sporting achievements of the children;
- to provide an opportunity to learn how to behave in a large social gathering.

Spiritual moral, social and cultural - this means that we want our assemblies to:

- provide a brief period of relaxation from the busy life of school, when children will have time to pause for thought in an atmosphere of peace and quiet. This involves a quiet and well-ordered arrival and departure;
- provide the children with an opportunity to contemplate the spiritual dimension of their life through music, images and words. The writings of the world's great religions, their prophets and followers will provide a source of meaningful stories and philosophies for life;
- provide an opportunity for private quiet contemplation and prayers;
- have a sense of occasion that separates them from the rest of the school day.

A record of assemblies will be drawn up by the R.E co-ordinator once a term. Church leaders and other members of the wider community are invited to lead or contribute to assemblies during each term.

The pattern of assemblies is as follows:

Monday	Fortnightly-Children's Voice assembly (vertically grouped). Issues to be discussed around Characteristics of Learning to promote greater personal responsibility re: their learning and behaviour . Fortnightly-Open the Books assembly carried out by a Christian group from a local church (St Augustines). Topics given each half term.
Tuesday	Whole school class assembly-led by class teacher
Wednesday	Singing assembly
Thursday	Whole school class assembly-led by class teacher
Friday	Celebration assembly –led by Head teacher and Deputy Head teacher with other staff contributing.