A Policy for Collective Worship

Policy revised by RE Subject Leader in July 2018.
Policy reviewed by staff at Phase Team meetings on 5th September 2018 and formally adopted at their Business meeting on 15th January 2019.
Policy adopted by the Local Advisory Board on 21st May 2019.
Policy due for review in 2022.

Philosophy:

At Shakespeare Primary School, daily acts of collective worship held within assemblies will be inclusive whilst acknowledging diversity, as well as being both educational and spiritual. They will provide opportunities for quiet reflection, celebration of Christian and other religious festivals and be responsive to the needs of pupils, staff and the wider local and global communities.

Aims:

The aim of collective worship is to enable pupils to:

◆ Reflect on values that are of a broadly Christian nature and on their own beliefs
◆ Develop an inclusive community spirit, a common ethos and shared British values including those of tolerance and respect
◆ Thoughtfully consider spiritual, moral, social and cultural issues
◆ Experience and have opportunities to worship God and respond to the worship offered.

Statutory Duty of School:

Under the Education Act 1996 (Section 385) and the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 (Section 70), all maintained schools are required to provide daily collective worship for registered pupils (apart from those who have been withdrawn by their parents (Section 71)).

In May 2013, the DfE stated that ‘an academy’s funding agreement is drafted to mirror the requirements for acts of collective worship in maintained schools. Each pupil must take part in a daily act of collective worship unless they have been withdrawn by their parents … This applies to academies with and without a religious designation’.

This is usually provided within a daily assembly. Daily collective worship must be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character.

Implementation

Daily collective worship will take place within an assembly during the school day, and involves all members of the school coming together, as a class, phase, or whole school family.

Whole school assemblies take place on Monday morning and on Friday afternoon. All teaching staff are expected to attend whole school assemblies. Mid-week assemblies are a combination of phase, class and music assemblies, according to
the age of the pupils. These assemblies are scheduled at the end of the school day, during which arrangements for shared supervision can be made.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Whole school assembly</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>Phase team assembly/ Class reflection</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Singing</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>Phase team assembly/ Class reflection</td>
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<td>Friday</td>
<td>Whole school assembly</td>
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**Planning**

Assemblies are planned on a termly basis to follow a weekly theme, which promotes spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. They include multicultural themes, which are linked to:

- Religious events and festivals
- Special days
- Special events in the life of the school
- Themes being studied, i.e. Social Emotional Aspects of Learning themes.

Termly assembly themes are listed below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term 1</th>
<th>New beginnings</th>
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<tr>
<td>Term 2</td>
<td>Getting on and falling out</td>
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<td>Term 3</td>
<td>Going for goals</td>
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<td>Term 4</td>
<td>Good to be me</td>
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<td>Term 5</td>
<td>Relationships</td>
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<td>Term 6</td>
<td>Changes</td>
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The assembly themes planned enable the children to reflect on matters of importance and offer them the chance to respond through a variety of activities, songs, music making, hymns, drama, role-play, the visual arts, silent thought, prayer and discussion.

**Assemblies:**

- Meetings are arranged to develop a sense of occasion and are conducted in a dignified and respectful way. They provide an opportunity to share with others and develop a sense of community.
- Pupils are expected to enter and leave quietly (in near silence). While the pupils are in the hall they sit in classes on the floor or on benches.
- Music is played at the start and end of the assembly from a variety of sources, which link to the theme where possible. The title and artist of the music is displayed for information.
- An appropriate song or hymn, relevant to the theme of the week forms part of whole school assemblies.
- Assemblies will be properly planned and be consistent with the values and aims of the school.
- Assemblies should be spiritual, providing a time to be still and reflect in a calm, relaxed and secure environment. They must provide a time for reflection and provide an opportunity for children to take part in worship.
Assemblies provide opportunities to celebrate success with pupils for individual, group, team achievements or whole school achievements. Parents and members of the local community are invited at regular intervals each term to assemblies and visiting speakers, sometimes from religious denominations are invited. This includes our local Christian community Reverend, Andrew Bowden.

**Right of withdrawal**

We expect all pupils to attend assembly. However, any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from attending religious worship in writing to the Head teacher, who will follow this up with a meeting with parents.

The school will make arrangements for the supervision of the pupil during the period concerned. Supervision may be in the school library area with appropriate work or reading provided, under supervision of administrative staff during whole school assemblies, depending upon the age and abilities of the pupil.

Staff, equally have the right to withdraw from collective worship, by providing the Head teacher with a written letter.

The Head teacher keeps a record of all pupils, who withdraw from collective worship.

**Monitoring, Evaluation and Review**

Monitoring occurs informally through staff discussion, with valued feedback from parents and visitors. The school will review this policy tri-annually and assess its implementation and effectiveness.