

North Baddesley Junior School

Policy Document



Collective Worship Policy

According to section 9 of the 1988 Education Reform Act: 'All pupils in attendance at a maintained school shall on each school day take part in an act of collective worship.'

The law requires that most acts of worship in school are of a 'broadly Christian character'. At North Baddesley Junior School, we interpret this as collective worship, set within the context of school assemblies, based on the broad principles and values of Christianity and which is appropriate to pupils, whatever their background or personal beliefs.

Aims

Collective worship and assemblies are times for togetherness and sharing for the whole school community. It provides dedicated time to:

- reflect and contemplate/pray
- celebrate special occasions and achievements
- facilitate a sense of community, belonging and sharing
- develop a common ethos and shared values
- encourage pupils to learn to be part of a large gathering as well as having opportunities for personal involvement - performing or responding to presentations
- experience a range of presenters both from within school and the wider community
- consider and reflect on spiritual and moral issues
- become aware of other beliefs, traditions, cultures and patterns of worship and value and respect the importance of beliefs to those who hold them
- explore feelings such as awe, wonder, mystery and joy
- interact with other year groups, staff and members of the wider community

Practice

Every effort is made to show sensitivity towards personal beliefs and to include everyone. When sharing a prayer children are invited to participate or to reflect on the content in their own way.

It is a legal requirement that all children attend Collective Worship unless their parents have exercised the right to withdraw their child/ren from all or parts of worship under the 1988 Education Reform Act. In the event of this occurring, the children will be suitably occupied under the supervision of an adult. Staff also have the right to withdraw, as an act of conscience, by arrangement with the Head teacher.

The leadership team provides a rolling programme of weekly themes.

Staff take responsibility for assemblies on one day each week and the remaining days are taken by members of the senior leadership team.

All teaching staff attend the weekly "Values" celebration assembly on Friday.

On occasions, visitors are invited to lead the collective worship (for example, the Baptist minister for North Baddesley and the Anglican vicar for the parish). The themes for these assemblies are agreed in advance with the Head/Assistant Head teacher, and the visitor is always supported by a member of staff.

The school will monitor this policy annually and assess its implementation and effectiveness.