

Thomas Gray Primary school

ASSEMBLY AND COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

The Assembly and Collective Worship Policy at Thomas Gray Primary School follows the guidance of the 1988 Education Reform Act and Circular 1/94 Religious Education and Collective Worship, which states that collective worship should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character'. However we also recognise and welcome the increasing diversity of nationalities, cultures and faith groups in our school and the rest of our country. As a school we celebrate diversity and offer a welcoming and inclusive environment for all our pupils including new arrivals and non-native English Speakers.

The Aims and Purpose of Collective Worship and Assembly

- To promote spiritual, moral, social, cultural and intellectual development

- To reflect on values and concerns of the school community and the community it serves

- To promote a common ethos with shared values and to reinforce positive attitudes

- . To give an opportunity to think about deeper issues in moments of quiet and stillness

- . To promote fundamental British values (addressing the five areas of: democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs)

- To enable children to explore their own beliefs and gain insights into ways in which other people express themselves within their faith commitments and to be sensitive to those different ways of responding

- . To develop a sense of awe, wonder and mystery

- . To develop awareness that life involves choices of belief, attitude, behaviour and relationships

- .To provide an opportunity for celebrating achievements

Assemblies and Collective Worship

Assemblies take place on a Monday, Tuesday and Friday and are planned to promote spiritual, moral, social, cultural and intellectual development. A record is kept of who is leading the assembly and the focus for that assembly. This information is recorded in a notebook.

Assemblies are linked to:

- . Character Strengths and Bucket Filling
- . Our PSHE Jigsaw scheme
- . British Values
- Religious events and Festivals
- Special days
- Special events in the life of the school
- . Weekly celebrations e.g. Star of the Week, Bucket filler of the week
- Topics being undertaken

Assemblies are conducted in a dignified and respectful way and are arranged to develop a sense of occasion. Music is often played at the start and end of the assembly and children are expected to enter and leave holding their drop of quiet. The Headteacher or other members of staff normally conduct assemblies but once a fortnight a local clergy or other representatives of local religious groups conduct them instead. We encourage the children to participate in assemblies by showing their work and raising issues that they have discussed in their classes. Parents are invited and encouraged to attend some assemblies including class assemblies, Star of the Week, Bucket filler of the Week and achievement assemblies.

On days when there is no assembly class teachers end the day with an act of collective worship.

Opportunities that our Assemblies and Collective Worship can provide

Our assemblies can provide opportunities for many of the following:

- To celebrate together
- To share common values and foster a corporate identity
- To reflect together and to enhance spiritual growth
- To contribute to personal development
- To encourage reflection and enrich emotional responses
- To encourage children to have an awareness of God, or others belief in God
- To explore own beliefs and experiences

Reception Children

Whilst the rest of the school attends whole school assembly, children in Reception begin by just attending special assemblies and the weekly Star of the Week assembly on Fridays. On the other days they end the day with an act of collective worship.

Right for withdrawal

Whilst we expect all children to attend assembly any parent or carer can request permission for their child to be excused from attending religious worship and the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during the period concerned. Parents do not have to explain or give reason for this. This complies with the 1944 Education Act and was restated in the 1988 Education Reform Act. During induction meetings for Nursery and Reception, and when any new child starts, parents will be asked however if they would like to highlight religious beliefs or any religious concerns.

Staff equally, have the right to withdraw from collective worship. They are expected to use the time gainfully for the benefit of the children.

Signed: A. P. Taylor 

Date: 5/12/17 

Date to be reviewed:

December 2020