



Chapel St Leonards Primary School

Assembly Policy

Aims and purpose

The aims and purpose of assemblies are:

- to provide an opportunity for children to consider God;
- to enable children to consider spiritual and moral issues;
- to enable children to explore their own beliefs;
- to encourage participation and response;
- to develop in children a sense of community spirit;
- to promote a common ethos, with shared values, and to reinforce positive attitudes;

Features of Assemblies

We understand assemblies to be a special act or occasion. Assemblies involves all members of the school coming together and participating in an assembly. We expect everyone to take an active part in the assembly. It is likely there will be mention made of a reverence to God.

In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act, which states that collective worship should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character', we can base our assemblies on the teachings of Christ and the traditions of the Christian Church. However, we conduct our assemblies in a manner that is sensitive to the faiths and beliefs of all members of the school and encourages our children to have an understanding and empathy for other faiths, traditions and the wider community.

Organisation of collective worship

We hold a daily assembly. This forms part of class or whole school assemblies.

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, to listen carefully to the teachings, and to participate fully in reflection and singing. We create an appropriate atmosphere to focus the attention of the children.

The assemblies are normally conducted by the head teacher or other members of staff, but are sometimes led by local clergy, visiting speakers or other representatives of local groups.

We take the themes of our assemblies from a wide range of stimuli and feel it is important that assemblies form part of our reactive curriculum. We observe the festivals and mark the events of the Christian calendar. Sometimes the themes of our assemblies are related to topics that we teach as part of the school curriculum.

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, which is that all children are valued, and all achievements are recognised.

On occasions there are particular assemblies that parents are invited to attend. We encourage their attendance, as this promotes community spirit, and shows the school and the homes working together in support of the children's achievements.

Governors' attendance at our assemblies is always welcome.

Right of withdrawal

We expect all children to attend assembly. However, any parent 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. Parents do not have to explain or give reasons for their request. 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 assemblies.

Monitoring and review

Monitoring the policy and practice of assemblies is the role of a named school governor, who is also responsible for religious education. The governor concerned liaises with the headteacher before reporting to the governors.

This policy will be reviewed at least every two years.