



Bishops Nympton Primary School

Collective Worship

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

The 1988 Education Act provides for both R.E. and collective worship. They are separate activities, although they can often reinforce each other.

ORGANISATION

At our school, we hold a daily act of collective worship. It is non-denominational in structure but is broadly Christian in character with appropriate emphasis given to multicultural and general educational themes. Assemblies are performed daily with either whole school or class assemblies.

Example patterns of assemblies might be:

- Monday – Headteacher whole school assembly AM
- Tuesday – Junior class led whole school assembly AM
- Wednesday – Headteacher / visiting Vicar whole school assembly AM
- Thursday – Infant class led whole school assembly AM
- Friday – Achiever's assembly – whole school / families

Assemblies may also be taken by visiting organisations or School Council.

AIMS OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

In our acts of collective worship we aim to:

- Foster a sense of fellowship and belonging
- Foster a sense of awe and wonder at the beauty, mystery and power of the natural world
- Allow reflection on fundamental questions of life
- Provide opportunities for celebration and thanksgiving
- Foster concern for the needs of others
- Provide a time for sharing the successes and failures of others provide the experience of being part of a caring community
- Foster new insights about life
- Contribute to the religious education of all pupils
- Introduce pupils to various aspects of religious worship, give them confidence in their own tradition and help them to value the tradition of others

ELEMENTS OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Acts of collective worship can include many elements. Some of these are:
Music, Songs & Hymns

Music can help to set the scene and create an appropriate atmosphere. It can be listened to, so helping pupils to reflect on a theme. It can be played or sung.

Sacred Scriptures, Stories

It is important to remember to choose stories/passages that are appropriate to the age of the pupils, as well as being in harmony with the theme.

Reflection Techniques

There are many ways, other than music, to help create an atmosphere. These include using art or artefacts; using flowers, plants or natural objects; lighting a candle to begin a story or to provide a focus of attention; using OHP, slides or video.

PRAYER

To most people prayer is the central part of worship. Prayer can involve words, but doesn't necessarily have to. Prayer can be a still and quiet reflection. We must also be aware of the rituals of prayer. We will not expect all pupils to "put hands together and close eyes", and automatically pray. This can fail to respect that people from other religious traditions have different positions that they assume for prayer. We will ask if children would like to pray, or simply have a quiet (reflective moment). We do have a school prayer that can be used to complete our assemblies. Again children are invited to join but there is no compulsion.

ASSEMBLY THEMES and FESTIVALS

The head teacher (and visiting vicar/clergy) coordinates Christian and multicultural delivery.

The teachers at the school plan their own either class based assemblies to fit with their themes or use current affairs/ PSHE and RE to form their on-going work.

Our Assemblies will follow old and new testament themes and stories:

Autumn: Old testament – Creation and Stories

Spring: New testament – Jesus and the Disciples, Miracles

Summer: Religions of the World

We celebrate Harvest, Christmas and Easter as Christian festivals with services held as appropriate at local churches or on site.

RIGHT OF WITHDRAWAL

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from collective worship and Religious Education at the school. Parents must contact the school office to formalise this withdrawal request.