



Bembridge CE Primary School

Learning to love God, one another and ourselves

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

SCHOOL ETHOS

Bembridge CE Primary School aims to provide each pupil with the opportunity to achieve their potential academically, socially, emotionally, physically and spiritually.

AIMS

The aims and objectives of collective worship are:

- to provide an opportunity for children to worship God; and experience a sense of awe and wonder;
- 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 Christian ethos, with shared values, and to reinforce positive attitudes;
- to encourage children to worship.

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

- We understand worship to be a special act or occasion whose purpose is to show reverence to God. Collective worship involves members of the school coming together and participating in an assembly.
- In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act, which states that collective worship should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character' and our Church of England status, we normally base our assemblies on the teachings of Christ and the traditions of the Christian Church and in accordance with the school's Trust Deed. However, we also conduct our assemblies based on moral and social code or special events in the school or general calendar. E.g. Environmental Days, Sports Relief etc.

ORGANISATION

- We hold a daily act of collective worship as follows:
 - MONDAY: Whole School
 - TUESDAY: Key Stages
 - WEDNESDAY: Hymn Practice, thought for the day and prayers.
 - THURSDAY: Denominational/whole school
 - FRIDAY: Sharing Assembly to parents/class based on theme

- We conduct collective worship in a dignified and respectful way. We tell children that this 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 prayer and hymns. We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music, and sometimes candles or other objects, to focus the attention of the children.
- Collective worship is normally conducted by the headteacher or other members of staff, and are regularly led by local clergy or other representatives of local religious groups.
- We take the themes of our assemblies from the traditions of the Christian faith, and 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 Friday Sharing Assemblies reflect the achievements and learning of the children. We encourage the children to participate in these assemblies by showing their work to the other children and by raising issues that they have discussed in their classes. We encourage parental attendance, as this promotes community spirit, and shows the school and the homes working together in support of the children's achievements.
- Collective worship provides 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. Bembridge CE Primary School is a successful school, and we shall continue to celebrate the successes of all our children at our assemblies.
- Those who conduct Collective Worship will be encouraged to follow the recommended structure.
- The Headteacher will regularly monitor the quality and effectiveness of the Collective Worship.

RIGHT OF WITHDRAWAL

We expect all children to attend collective worship. 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 headteacher keeps a record of all children who have been withdrawn from collective worship.

OCTOBER 2014



REVIEW OCTOBER 2016