

Governors' Responsible:	Full Governing Body (FGB)
Policy Originator:	RE Co-ordinator
Next Annual Review Due:	March 2023

AIMS AND PURPOSE

The aims and purpose of collective worship are:

- To provide an opportunity for the children to worship 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
- To promote an ethos with shared values and to reinforce positive attitudes
- To experience being part of a worshipping community
- To encourage a sense of awe and wonder
- To encourage children to pray and see the value of prayer

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

We understand worship to be a special act or occasion whose purpose is to show reverence and encourage quiet reflection times. Collective worship involves all members of the school coming together and participating in assembly. We expect everyone to take an active part in assembly, be sensitive to each other and to the person leading worship, as appropriate.

In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act which states that collective worship should be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character we normally base our assemblies in the teachings of Christ and traditions of the Christian Church. However, we conduct our assemblies in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs of all members of the school community, including those of non-religious beliefs and of non-faith belief.

While the majority of acts of worship in our school are Christian based we also hold assemblies that reflect other religious traditions, and none, that are represented in the school and wider community.

ORGANISATION OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

We hold a daily act of collective worship at our school. The weekly timetable for assemblies at Buckland Primary School is as follows:

- Monday 10.10 to 10.30 Whole School assembly
- Tuesday 10.10 to 10.30 Key Stage assembly / Here I am [class time for reflection and development of sense of Awe and Wonder]
- Wednesday 10.10 to 10.30 Key stage 1 and 2 singing assemblies [includes songs of praise and hymns]
- Thursday 9.15 Class Led Assembly [parents invited] / Whole School assembly.
- Friday 12.55 - 1.20 Key stage 1 and 10.10 - 10.30 Key stage 2 Celebration assemblies.

Class assemblies are organised on a rota basis throughout the year.

We regard assemblies as a special time and expect children to behave in an appropriate way. We ask them to be quiet, thoughtful and reflective where appropriate. We aim to create a reflective atmosphere through the selection of music and sometimes candles or other objects that act as a focal point for the children.

We take the themes of our assemblies from the S.E.A.L programme for primary schools. In addition, we often reflect the festivals and events of the Christian calendar. Sometimes the themes of our assemblies reflect and build upon topics that we teach as part of the school curriculum.

A minister from our local parish church leads the whole school in a *monthly* assembly.

Our celebration assemblies reflect the achievements and learning of the children. We encourage children to celebrate the successes of others by talking about their learning to other children. Assemblies offer an opportunity to acknowledge and reward children for achievement both in and out of school. They play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school which is that all are valued and all achievements are recognised.

We welcome Governors' attendance at our assemblies at any time.

RIGHT OF WITHDRAWAL

We hope all children will attend assembly. However, any parent 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 that time. This complies with the 1944 Education Act and was restated in the 1988 Education Reform Act.

Any parents or carers wishing to exercise their right to withdraw their child(ren) from all or part of collective worship should consult the Head teacher.

SAFETY

Collective Worship follow the Surrey County Council's guidelines for Health & Safety and the safeguarding of all pupils using risk assessments, as appropriate.

When large numbers of children are in the hall it is important that all exits are clear and not blocked by furniture.

Children moving to and from the hall should do so quietly and under supervision. Lit candles should be kept at a safe distance from the pupils.

If the fire alarm rings then children should leave by the nearest exit and go to the playground with the teachers who are supervising assembly.

No one should return to their classroom first.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY

Entitlement to acts of Collective Worship should not be affected by gender, culture, race or special needs. It is important that there are no barriers to equality of opportunity.

MONITORING AND REVIEW

Although the responsibility for collective worship lies with the Head teacher, the subject leader will ensure this policy is implemented and new ideas and guidance and legal guidance will be shared with staff.

It is the role of the named school governor with responsibility for Religious Education and Collective Worship to monitor the policy and practice of Collective Worship. The governor concerned liaises with the Head teacher before reporting the Governing Body on Religious Education and Collective Worship.