

BEREWOOD PRIMARY SCHOOL



Collective Worship

&

School Assembly Policy

October 2019

Revised by School	October 2019
Responsible Person	Ricky Leigh (headteacher)
Responsible Committee	Standards and Curriculum
Ratified by GB	24 January 2020
Next Review	October 2022



BEREWOOD PRIMARY SCHOOL

A distinctive vision

At Berewood Primary School we see education as a journey of discovery to fire the imagination, to establish a sense of self, and to gain the confidence to take full part in the wider world.

An ethos of local partnership

Berewood Primary School and the University of Chichester Academy Trust share the belief that education has the power to transform society. Our school is deeply rooted in its locality and encourages the involvement and interest of parents and the community, recognising that strong and vibrant communities have partnership and inclusion at their heart.

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP AND SCHOOL ASSEMBLY POLICY

Introduction

At Berewood Primary School we believe it is important to meet together daily as a community to reinforce community values and to worship together. The importance of this time together cannot be underestimated with regard to reinforcing school values, promoting the ethos, aims and vision of the school, and building a sense of working together for our school, our community and the wider world.

Collective worship is set within the context of assemblies – which may include other features besides those required of collective worship. The character of worship in the school is Christian based with references to other faiths when appropriate. Worship has a wide range of meanings and forms of expression. For some people this might be devotion to a divine being, power or personal God; for others it might mean reflection on and understanding of those elements of life, which are of value and worth.

Collective worship and school assemblies are co-ordinated by the headteacher and a variety of themes and activities are used to ensure a high quality experience for all the children, regardless of family background.

Aims and Objectives

- ❖ to provide an opportunity for pupils to meet together as a whole school;
- ❖ to provide an opportunity to reflect on life and prayer;
- ❖ to introduce children to religious worship in a meaningful and honest way;
- ❖ to enable those pupils who want to worship God to do so;
- ❖ to provide opportunities for expressing shared experiences and interests and for celebrating special occasions together
- ❖ to provide opportunities in which pupils interact with other year groups, staff and on occasions the wider community
- ❖ to fulfill statutory requirements of a daily act of collective worship for all pupils.
- ❖ to encourage and develop a sense of community in the school reinforcing the aims and ethos and celebrating the ideals and values of the school and wider community.

The school community

Our school community is made up of people with many different religious perspectives (including atheist and agnostic).

Assemblies are broadly Christian in nature but are conducted in a manner, which is sensitive to the faiths and beliefs of all members of the school community. We are proud of the diversity of our school community and as such hold assemblies that reflect and celebrate the traditions of the main religions, particularly those that are represented in the school and the wider community.

Assemblies are regarded as a special time in the day of calm reflection and are conducted accordingly. Children are expected to behave respectfully and thoughtfully and are asked to come in and leave assemblies without talking. [SEP]

Organisation and Management

The school holds daily assemblies where pupils meet together with others. These assemblies have a variety of aims, content and experience. These assemblies may be class, year group or separate key stage assemblies, with their times varying accordingly. Our celebration assemblies also reflect the achievements and learning of the children. We encourage children to participate by holding, each week, celebration assemblies during which children can reflect upon their work and successes with others. These assemblies provide an opportunity to reward children for their achievements both in and out of school and celebrate them together. They also play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school - that all children and their achievements (in and out of school) are valued.

Assemblies are normally conducted by the headteacher, deputy headteacher or other members of staff, but are sometimes led by visitors to the school. Within these assemblies the daily act of collective worship takes place.

A half-termly or termly programme of assembly themes is organised by staff. This programme includes special occasions such as Remembrance Day, harvest and Easter. It often links to whole school PSHCE (personal, social, health and citizenship education) themes such as the focus from the SEAL (Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning) programme.

All the worship in the school is of a broadly Christian character while the content will vary and will be more explicitly Christian on some days and less so on others.

Collective worship will vary in the content but will normally contain a hymn, a prayer and a story or information which will encourage personal and social development, understanding of communities, moral and spiritual aspects of life and a sense of awe and wonder about the world.

Assemblies are planned every term on a thematic basis, with each theme lasting for several weeks. Themes are very broad to allow for flexibility and variety of delivery.

Weekly Programme

Day of the week	Assembly focus
Monday	Whole school assembly led by the headteacher
Tuesday	Whole school assembly led by a member of staff
Wednesday	Hall in use, class based assemblies
Thursday	Whole school singing assembly led by deputy head teacher/music leader
Friday	Whole school assembly led by the headteacher including singing and celebrating achievement in and out of school.

Time Allocation

Assemblies are planned for about 15/20 minutes each day, including collective worship and other matters of school interest.

Resources

A range of books and resources are available to support collective worship and on-line resources and assembly plans are also available to support planning.

Withdrawal

When parents request that their child be withdrawn from collective worship parents meet with the head teacher to clarify the beliefs and practices that they wish their child to be excluded from. In practice, for most assemblies the child will only need to miss the hymn and prayers.

Community

The school works with local churches whenever possible. Fundraising and charity events are often included in a whole school assembly. Visitors and new staff and pupils are always welcomed into assembly and introduced to the school community. Visitors (previously vetted) may be invited to lead a school assembly, e.g. local ministers.

Monitoring and Evaluation

This policy was reviewed by staff and governors in January 2020 and thereafter will be reviewed as part of the 3 year review cycle.