

Policy on School Assembly and Collective Worship

Intent

At Hasland Infant School we actively encourage our children to consider spiritual and moral issues. We want our children to explore their own beliefs and find out about the beliefs of others.

Collective worship is planned to be creative and exciting. Children are encouraged to participate, ask questions and apply what they have learnt into real life situations.

Collective worship is planned around Christian statements which link to British values and includes time to worship and reflect. Children are encouraged to think about challenges and choices they may face in their lives and how they would overcome them.

Our school mission statement 'Be the Best You Can Be' is used to reinforce positive attitudes.

Implementation

We expect all children to attend daily **School Assembly**. Most school assemblies will contain collective worship which children are encouraged to join in with. In accordance with the Education Reform Act (1988) parents/carers have the right to withdraw their children from the collective worship element. Concerns can be discussed with the Headteacher. 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.

We understand worship is a special act whose purpose is to show reverence to God. We promote British Values, Fairness, Equality of opportunity, Inclusivity, Respect for each other and Honesty,

In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act, which states that collective worship should be "wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character", assemblies are usually based on the teaching 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.

While most acts of worship in our school are Christian, we also hold assemblies that reflect the traditions of other religions that are represented in the school and the wider community.

Assemblies are undertaken in a dignified and respectful way. We encourage children to understand that assembly time is a period of calm reflection, a special time, and expect children to behave in an appropriate way. We expect them to be quiet and thoughtful, to listen carefully to the teachings, and to be respectful during prayers and participate in singing. We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music to focus the attention of the children. Behaviour is managed in a positive way and our SMILE expectations are followed.

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 and from our RE and PSHE curriculum and link to British values.

We plan our assemblies well in advance of the day they take place. Our assemblies reflect the achievements and learning of the children. Assemblies provide an opportunity to reward children for their achievements both in and out of school. We have a monthly Star of the Month assembly in KS1 All children awarded in these assemblies receive a certificate and their photographs are visually displayed on a star achievers board. Children share success in their learning in assembly on a weekly basis.

School council members and Chief Global Guardians regularly feedback in collective worship and what their next steps will be. Our achievements play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school, which is that all children are valued, and all achievements are recognised.

Hasland Infant School is a successful school, and we shall continue to celebrate the successes of all our children at our assemblies.

Governors' attendance at our assemblies is always welcome. A governor is usually present when we award school council members for their commitment at the end of the year.

Links with the community

Assemblies are normally conducted by the Headteacher or a member of the SLT and other members of staff, but are sometimes led by local clergy or other representatives of local religious groups and the community. The parents of children who are being awarded 'Star of the Month' are invited to attend the special whole school assembly.

Impact

Gathering together as a school community on a regular basis helps us to develop and establish a community in which everyone is special and valued. It gives our children a feeling of belonging where they are equal and yet unique. Collective Worship is a time when we can demonstrate that together can achieve great things and 'Be the Best We Can be'.