

Collective Worship Policy Redstone Academy

PRINCIPLES:

Redstone Academy believes that collective worship both supports and strengthens what we aim to do in every aspect of school life. Our caring ethos, and the value which we place on the development of the whole child; spiritually, morally, socially, culturally and intellectually is reflected in our worship. We value this special time in the school day for the space it gives children to develop a reflective approach to life and the ability to express their reflections in a traditionally religious way.

Families who send their children to this school are predominantly from a practising Muslim background. We recognise that in asking our children to worship, we have to consider the background that our children come from and it is therefore not the practice of this school to preach to the children. The faith background of both the staff and the child's family is respected at all times.

AIMS:

Through our collective worship we aim to provide a caring and supportive environment for children to:

- Become increasingly aware of themselves as individuals and groups within the school and wider community
- Grow in understanding of the feelings of other people in every day situations and beliefs
- Explore the language which people use to express their feelings
- Deepen their sense of wonder about the world around them
- Grow in confidence when making a presentation to the group or whole school
- Respond freely to religious and/or spiritual stimulus
- Acknowledge diversity and affirm each person's life stance, whether it be religious or not

PRACTICE:

At Redstone Academy, our acts of worship do not necessarily combine with assembly. There is 1 assembly each week for every pupil in the school. In addition, we have one (or two during the winter months) dedicated prayer session(s) during school time which coincides with the midday Muslim prayers.

The headteacher or other senior staff lead the whole school prayer sessions daily, whilst Heads of Section and other senior staff will lead the assemblies each week. Pupils are encouraged to take an active part in both planning and leadership at

certain times of the year. Assemblies are sometimes discussed at School Council meetings and they are invited to submit ideas and get other children involved.

The school year has been divided into weekly themes, which encompass religious festivals, known national or international events, and aspects taken from the school calendar.

Please see additional guidance on assemblies in Appendix 1

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- The Head Teacher is responsible for arranging the daily worship.
- The Heads of Sections are responsible for planning the calendar of themes for assemblies.
- All Teaching Staff are required to attend assemblies.
- Parents of a pupil have a right to withdraw their children from collective worship if they are not of the Muslim faith. If a parent asks for their child to be wholly or partly excused from attending collective worship, for reason of being from a faith other than Islam, the school must comply unless the request is withdrawn. Any parent who wishes to exercise this right should consult the headteacher.

DISSEMINATION:

This policy is shared with all staff through our website. Parents are advised of the policy on an annual basis via the website and social media (twitter and text messages).

POLICY UPDATED: SEPTEMBER 2016

NEXT REVIEW: SEPTEMBER 2017



APPENDIX 1
ADDITIONAL GUIDANCE ON PLANNING AND CONDUCTING ASSEMBLIES

In planning our assemblies, we choose from a range of methods, including:

- Pupil's and staff contributions
- Sacred and secular stories/readings
- Prayer and reflection
- Visual aids/focal points
- Dialogue
- PSHE topics
- Interest news/media topics of relevance.

Although not exhaustive, the following list of topics may be of relevance in assemblies:

Attitude
Belonging
Bullying
Choices
Cleanliness
Communication
Confidence
Diversity / Culture
Excuses
Family
Identity
Journey
Make a difference
Parents
Respect
Teamwork
Truth
Value

