

ST BENEDICT'S PRIMARY SCHOOL



COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

St. Benedict's Primary School is a Rights Respecting School and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child is at the heart of everything we do.

"Enjoying our rights and fulfilling our dreams"

We believe that by understanding their own rights, children learn to respect and value the rights of others.

We aim for our children to be:

- Ambitious-To have a strong desire to achieve
- Resilient- To have the ability to withstand and bounce back from difficult life events
- Respectful- To behave in a way that shows you care about your own rights and the rights of others, the local and global community and environment.

The following articles underline our Aims;

Article 3

"The best interests of the child must be a top priority in all our actions."

Article 29

"Education must develop every child's personality, talents and abilities to the full. It must encourage the child's respect for human rights, as well as respect for their parents, their own and other cultures and the environment."

RATIONALE

St Benedict's Primary School will comply with the relevant legislation relating to collective worship in schools. The policy will be promoted and implemented throughout the school.

All maintained schools have a statutory duty to provide daily collective worship for registered pupils (apart from those who have been withdrawn by their parents). In St Benedict's Primary School, this is provided through assemblies or in class gatherings.

Daily collective worship must be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character. The precise nature will depend on the family background, ages and abilities of the pupils. The school also utilises the dispositions as set out in the Agreed Syllabus for Birmingham (2007)

1. Aims and purpose

- to provide an opportunity for children to meet together.
- to enable children to consider spiritual and moral issues;
- to enable children to explore their own beliefs [and those of others] article 14
- to encourage participation and response;
- to develop in children a sense of community spirit;
- to promote a common ethos, with shared values, and to reinforce positive attitudes;
- to hold assemblies that reflect the traditions of all religions that are represented in the school and the wider community.

2. Implementation

Collective Worship is a time when the whole school, or groups within the school meet together in order to consider and reflect on common concerns, issues and interests. It offers all pupils an opportunity to worship through engaging in relevant, meaningful experiences and provides opportunities for the pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

We fulfil this through:

- * Celebration assemblies where children's achievements are recognised and valued
- * Leadership assemblies, which focus on moral development and festivals
- * Rights respecting- and everything we do connected to this helps children to develop their moral awareness
- * Celebrating different festivals over the year. This enables children to consider their own cultural and spiritual beliefs in relation to others
- * Incidental class discussions
- * School council/ Eco committee etc

3. Organisation of Assemblies.

We conduct assemblies in a dignified and respectful way. We tell children that assembly 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 and to listen carefully. We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music, and sometimes candles or other objects, to focus the attention of the children.

The assemblies are normally conducted by a member of leadership or our Rights Respecting lead teachers.

Celebration assemblies take place each week to recognise children's efforts and achievements. Assemblies include celebrations and traditions from many faiths and cultures and from other non-religious customs and traditions. For example, St George's Day, Diwali, Mothering Sunday – article 14.

Our assemblies reflect the achievements and learning of the children. We encourage the children to participate in the assemblies by showing their work to the other children, and by raising issues that they have discussed in their classes. Assemblies provide an opportunity to share the children's 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 have the right to an education. Attendance is also celebrated and rewarded– article 24 and 28.

Whilst fully complying with the law, the school will be sensitive to the fact that not all children will come from religious families – article 30.

4. Right of withdrawal

We expect all children to attend assembly. However, any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from assembly and the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during 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 – article 14.

Staff also have the right to withdraw from Collective Worship and are informed of this through the Staff Handbook.

The Headteacher keeps a record of all children who have been withdrawn from assembly.

5. Monitoring and review

This policy will be reviewed every two years, or when updated guidance is received from the LA or SACRE.

September 2023: Miss C Wilson, RE Co- Ordinator

