

Assemblies and Collective Worship Statement

Introduction

At Heron Hill we believe that Assemblies plays a very important role in the life of our school. It is an opportunity to celebrate all aspects of school life to support our curriculum and to provide an opportunity for coming together to reflect on what is very often a busy, active day for the children.

Aims

The central aims of Collective Worship at Heron Hill Primary School are to:

- Provide our children with spiritual, moral, social and cultural educational opportunities through collaborative and meaningful themes and relevant topics.
- Celebrate the values and worth of the whole school community and all who belong in it, including the sharing of the gifts and talents of our children. Our three key values are: **Relationships, Respect and Responsibility**
- Help children understand both the nature and language of worship of the Christian and different World faiths.
- Help children develop respect and sensitivity to the beliefs and values of others.
- Support the broader curriculum through the use of art, music, dance, story-telling, drama and other visual and oral means of communication.

The Education Act 1996 requires the provision of a broadly-based curriculum which:

'promotes the spiritual, moral cultural, mental and physical development of pupils'; and 'prepares such pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life'.

'6. -(1) Subject to section 9 of this Act, all pupils in attendance at a maintained school shall on each school day take part in an act of collective worship.

7.-(1) Subject to the following provisions of this section, in the case of a county school the collective worship required in the school by section 6 of this Act shall be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character. 3 Amendments are in bold print. Religious Education and Collective Worship 1/94 31 January 1994 55 (2) For the purposes of

subsection (1) above, collective worship is of a broadly Christian character if it reflects the broad traditions of Christian belief without being distinctive of any particular Christian denomination.

In our School, Collective Worship is seen as an educational activity which forms part of a structured and coherent curriculum linked to other subjects especially RE and PSHE. It will be of a broadly Value based on Christian character values, though non-denominational, and take into account the pupils' needs, ages, aptitudes and faith backgrounds. It will also reflect notable dates and events within the year.

A termly outline programme of assemblies is available through the school office.

Assemblies are held daily in class or in the hall communally.

At Heron Hill Primary School we teach and promote social, moral, spiritual and cultural education.

We promote pupils' **spiritual development** by actively encouraging:

- the growth of pupils' inner life, their capacity to relate to others and their non-material well-being; for example, their self-respect, their creativity, their will to achieve their full potential and their ability to ask, and try to find answers to, life's major questions, including questions about the existence;
- pupils' acquisition of the knowledge, understanding, skills, attitudes and qualities they need to foster their own inner lives and non-material well-being throughout life.

We promote pupils' **moral development** by actively encouraging:

- pupils' understanding of the difference between right and wrong, the will to do what is right and their willingness to consider others with concern and compassion;
- pupils' acquisition of the knowledge, understanding, skills, qualities and attitudes they need to do what is right and to cope with moral conflict.

We promote pupils' **social development** by actively to encouraging:

- pupils' understanding of the responsibilities and rights of being a member of families and various communities, local, national and global;

- pupils' acquisition of the knowledge, understanding, skills, qualities and attitudes they need to live up to these responsibilities and exercise these rights.

We promote pupils' **cultural development** by actively to encouraging:

- pupils' understanding of the cultural influences that affect them and others, a sense of belonging to local, regional, national, global cultures, and their appreciation and response to a range of aesthetic experiences;
- pupils' acquisition of the knowledge, understanding, skills, qualities and attitudes they need to understand, appreciate and contribute to their own and different cultures.

Teaching staff are to attend acts of Collective Worship and to encourage children to behave appropriately; providing for their different needs to ensure this is possible. (E.g. By providing adapted seating, whiteboards, a small copy of a text or puppet, visual symbols. Class teachers are responsible for these adaptations.)

It is the responsibility of the staff members named to co-ordinate, research and resource the assemblies they are assigned to. The activities, stories and resources must be real and relevant to the needs of all the children and encourage active participation.

The Whole school ethos of promoting equality, value themes are used to organise assembly events. Teachers use the Picture News resources sent weekly, their website, personal experience, and relevant current events to adapt these for the children. Consideration of how we plan with regard to vulnerable groups with protected characteristics is an expectation.

Music is to be used to encourage a quiet and orderly entrance to the hall and leaving of the hall to make the most of the reflective opportunity and to develop the children's awareness of music as a tool in helping create a calm atmosphere.

We have a focus of celebrating key Christian festivals of Christmas and Easter, but acknowledge and learn key principles of special festivals from other World faiths.

We encourage visitors and wider community opportunities to enhance SMSC learning and to develop in our children the skills of reflection, empathy to

encourage and celebrate their talents and to promote the idea of community and a sense of well-being for all our children.

Families have the right to withdraw a child from an act of Collective Worship, but it is the class teacher's responsibility to ensure that they are safely cared for and provided with an appropriate alternative learning task.