



SCHOOL POLICY ON ASSEMBLIES

Philosophy of collective worship at Nateby:

"The fact that I can plant a seed and it becomes a flower, share a bit of knowledge and it becomes another's, smile at someone and receive a smile in return, are to me a continual spiritual journey"- Leo Buscaglia

"To worship is to quicken the conscience by the holiness of God, to feed the mind with the truth of God, to purge the imagination by the beauty of God, to open the heart to the love of God and to devote the will to the purpose of God". William Temple (1881-1894)

"Stillness is the altar of spirit" Paramahansa Yogananda(1893-1952)

"Happiness can be found, even in the darkest of times, if one only remembers to turn on the light" Albus Dumbledore (J.K. Rowling)

Nateby Primary School is a Community school. Collective worship is an important part of the school day as it gives us the opportunity to come together as a school community. It is attended by all students and any visitors in school are very welcome to join in.

Collective Worship and the Law

In accordance with legal requirements (School Standards and Framework Act 1998) an act of collective worship, taking into account of the age, aptitude and background of the pupils, is provided daily for all pupils except those withdrawn by parents. The school expects that withdrawal will be only made following discussions with the head teacher, followed by written confirmation of withdrawal. Special arrangements will be made by governors to supervise children withdrawn from acts of worship. In addition, staff have the right to withdraw from the act of collective worship.

"The arrangements for the required collective worship may, in respect of each school day, provide for a single act of worship for all pupils or for separate acts of worship for pupils in different age groups or in different school groups." The School Standards and Framework Act 1998

Rationale

Inclusion is important to our vision and we aim for acts of assembly to be inclusive of all pupils. There is an expectation that all pupils will be present. Careful planning and preparation ensure that there are clear learning intentions for all pupils at different levels of understanding. School assemblies are first and foremost for the educational benefit of all pupils. It is a shared activity that allows for a variety of responses and provides an opportunity for those of any religious faith, or none, to focus and reflect on stimuli which allow the human spirit to respond with integrity. The school is committed to respect the integrity of the backgrounds from which pupils come. The school will also offer the opportunity to explore, reflect upon and respond to the mystery and meaning of the Christian faith. At Nateby Primary School we aim to achieve the following in our school assemblies:

- Strengthen and support the school community and celebrate each unique individual member
- Give expression to reaffirm and practise the values of the school community

- Allow reflection and response to fundamental questions of life and those things that are of eternal concern and value to human beings
- Celebrate and give thanks for achievements within the school, local and international community and occasions of significance, including festivals
- Contribute to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils
- Foster and enable a concern for the needs of others – recognition of the vulnerability of self and others
- Lead pupils to a deeper knowledge and understanding of different faiths and world views
- Provide members of the school community with the opportunity to experience stillness and quiet
- Experience a variety of forms of music, art, drama, story that lead to personal reflection
- Provide a foundation for a mature understanding and practice of worship in the future

1. Our morning Assembly forms an important part of the day, but parents may withdraw their children from this if they wish to do so. The assemblies are of a mainly Christian nature however the other major World faiths are represented every term along with the main festivals of other religions being discussed in order to develop an awareness of different religions in a multi-cultural society.

2. All children should be encouraged to walk in without talking as assemblies are occasions for reflection and praise. Whole school assemblies are held as follows:

Monday: 10.20 to 10.40 a.m. - Mrs Riley/ Reverend Michael Hutchinson

Tuesday: 10.20 to 10.40 a.m. - Class Assembly (PSHE)

Wednesday: 10.20 to 10.40 a.m. - Singing Assembly – Mrs Richardson

Thursday: 10.20 to 10.40 a.m. - Class Assembly (PSHE)

Friday: 01.05pm to 1.30pm - Celebration Assembly - Mrs Smith

3. Assemblies include the act of worship and provide an opportunity for each child to reflect on the day ahead or on specific events within a calm, thoughtful environment; to put his/her own experiences into a wider context and to feel part of the school community. The emphasis here is on both achievement and experience, where each individual can contribute equally. This is one of the main opportunities to foster and promote the school's aims and ethos. There will be occasions when the children themselves plan and lead the assemblies.

4. Some assemblies may be in the form of a book, film or even a use of online videos. At the heart of each broadcast is a story; these are drawn from the major religious traditions represented in this country. Listening to a story can be an enriching experience, creating that sense of awe and wonder which lies at the centre of all religious experience. It can also stimulate the imagination, giving valuable insights into various cultural traditions.

5. In addition to stories, there will be opportunities for prayer, as well as music to both listen and contribute to.

6. Assemblies are also used to deliver key Child Safety messages at certain points throughout the school calendar. E.g. Road Safety Awareness Week, Bonfire Night, Internet Safety, Children's Mental Health Week, and so on. Members of organisations from Pol-Ed and the RNLI join us in assembly to deliver this important information on how to stay safe.

Leadership, Planning and Evaluation of Assemblies

The Headteacher plans the assembly themes and resources that are used by staff to deliver appropriate assemblies. Guests and visitors will prepare their own resources in collaboration with the head teacher. The head teacher is also responsible for monitoring and evaluating assemblies.

Special services

We join together as a community at special times, e.g. Harvest, Christmas, Easter, Leavers' service, special times of celebration such as Poppy Day of Remembrance and Class Assemblies.

Music and art as part of our act of worship

Music is often played during, before and after our assemblies to highlight that this is a special time for us to be together. We use music as part of our act of worship where appropriate to the theme as we see music as a medium able to evoke deep, intense feelings that are a part of an individual and theirs alone; memories, emotions of visual images. The music, instrumental or vocal, may be selected to enhance the atmosphere for worship, stillness and reflection or to inspire thought and talking points in the areas of spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. This listening time is also used to introduce children to:

1. Music of a variety of styles, cultures and traditions
2. A range of composers and famous works
3. Recognition and appraisal of a range of musical elements

Visitors to school

Visitors leading assembly are given clear instructions concerning age and ability of the pupils, purpose of occasion and appropriate delivery (content and material used). The school will ensure that checks are made about connections with the school e.g. parent, charity representative, clergy from another denomination, adviser, colleague before the day. There will be a sharing of the aims and objectives of the visits and links made to the overall scheme for Collective worship. The visitor's method will be reviewed before another invitation is extended. A follow up session will be linked where considered appropriate to the developing theme. Visitors should report to the office to announce their arrival. All visitors must sign the visitor's book and may not be left with the children unless member of the school staff is present. They will be thanked as they leave the building

Reviewed by Mrs Smith – Autumn Term 2025

To be reviewed 2028.