

STANNINGTON INFANT SCHOOL

Policy for Assemblies

Agreed by Governors

September 2022





Stannington Infant School Policy for Assemblies

Stannington Infant School Vision

To encourage a caring and positive attitude amongst the children towards all others and their environment.

To provide a challenging, creative and rich curriculum which will develop curiosity, confidence and independence.

To provide an inclusive, safe, secure, healthy and happy environment.

Assemblies play an important role in promoting and developing the school ethos, values, attitudes, beliefs, relationships, aspirations and achievements. As such we hope they make a powerful contribution to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils within Stannington Infant School.

Aims

We aim to provide assemblies which:

- Are child-centred, related to the pupils' ages, levels of understanding and family backgrounds
- Give the children opportunities to be involved
- Create an experience, stimulate thought and provoke reflection
- Are varied in approach and may include stories, music, visual stimuli, performances, external presenters etc.
- Provide an opportunity for a few moments of quiet reflection
- Reflect the integrity of children's responses
- Affirm the 'worth' of some of the fundamental British values that we all hope to share
- Foster a sense of community within school
- May extend the children's awareness of some of the 'big' issues in life
- Acknowledge diversity
- Celebrate a range of educational and personal achievements
- Are related to the different curriculum areas
- Are marked by the 'right' sort of atmosphere
- Reflect the open, tolerant approach of our RE Policy
- Are mainly 'of a broadly Christian nature' and are not distinctive of any particular Christian denomination
- Acknowledge other religions apart from Christianity

Legal Requirements

Our Assemblies operate within the requirements of the 1988 Education Reform Act, consolidated in the 1996 Education Act that requires all pupils in attendance at a maintained school take part in a daily act of collective worship of a broadly Christian

nature. Provided that taken as a whole, an act of Worship which is broadly Christian reflects the traditions of Christian belief, it need not contain only Christian material

We follow the guidance from the Sheffield SACRE (Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education) in interpreting and implementing this complex, sensitive and frequently controversial aspect of legislation.

Circular 1/94 states “Collective worship should aim to provide the opportunity for pupils to Worship God, to consider spiritual and moral issues and to explore their own beliefs: to encourage active participation and response, whether through active involvement in the presentation of Worship or through listening to and joining in the Worship offered: and to develop community spirit, promote a common ethos and shared values and reinforce positive attitudes.”

A school is not a worshipping community. Assemblies are about ‘collective’ not ‘corporate’ worship and opportunities are found to provide our children with ways to respond to the spiritual aspects of life that are appropriate to them. All our pupils (apart from those whose parents exercise their right of withdrawal) gather together on a daily basis. Usually this takes place between 2.10 to 2.30pm and involves the whole school. Occasionally they may take place in a classroom with individual classes if the hall is out of use for any reason.

Teachers retain the right to withdraw from collective worship but they may be required to attend Assembly in a supervisory capacity under the Teachers’ Pay and Conditions of Service Regulations.

Responsibility for the arrangement of collective worship rests with the Head Teacher in consultation with the Governors.

Format of Assemblies

The children walk into Assembly to different types of music (chosen by the music co-ordinator or HT).

They are encouraged to sit still and join in actively for 15 minutes of special listening, thinking or singing led by different adults. Sometimes the children are involved in presentations of aspects themselves.

Often a song relevant to the theme of the Assembly is sung.

Where appropriate we have a ‘quiet thought’ relevant to the Assembly.

There is a different type of Assembly each day:

- Mondays - Golden Assembly; each class teacher identifies 2 or 3 children who have shown good learning behaviours that week. The Head Teacher praises these children and gives them a certificate. The whole school claps the achievement and we sing a celebration song. We give awards for attendance and behaviour. We also give out Birthday certificates.

- Tuesdays / Thursday - The Head teacher or member of SLT lead the assembly following a theme for a week, which are also linked to our PSHE themes e.g. New Beginnings, teamwork, honesty etc

All children attend Assemblies unless withdrawn by parents or guardians.

Planning

Each half-term planning sheets indicating the subject/content for particular Assemblies are completed by the HT

Visitors

Occasionally visiting speakers are invited to lead the Assemblies. Sometimes parents or governors attend an Assembly.