

John Ruskin Primary School and Language Classes

Collective Worship* Policy

Co-ordinator:

Last review: October 2022

Next review: 2025



“Be responsible, be fair, stay positive and care”

**In this policy document, ‘assembly’ = ‘collective worship’*

Legal Framework

Source: Circular 1/94 Religious Education and Collective Worship

- All maintained schools must provide religious education and daily collective worship for all registered pupils and promote their spiritual, moral and cultural development.
- Collective worship in county schools and equivalent grant-maintained schools must be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character, though not distinctive of any particular Christian denomination.
- The parental right of withdrawal from RE and collective worship and the safeguards for teachers are unchanged.
- Information and inspection requirements apply to collective worship.

Context: Our Ethos and Values

Our school values are:

- **KINDNESS** e.g. valuing the work and opinions of others, making new pupils feel welcome, caring for someone who is upset or hurt. Never resorting to physical or verbal attacks or intimidation of others.
- **RESPECT** e.g. understanding cultural differences, looking after the property of others and the school, speaking politely and quietly at all times.
- **HONESTY** e.g. telling the truth, talking about incidents that happen and their accepting their consequences. Never taking anything that does not belong to you.
- **FAIRNESS** e.g. treating others as you would like to be treated, following the school rules, sharing equipment, friends, taking turns.
- **WISDOM** e.g. wanting to learn new things, trying hard in the classroom, doing homework well, learning by your mistakes. Never bringing dangerous items into school.
- **HOPE** e.g. being optimistic, working to achieve targets, not giving up (being positive), having goals.
- **COURAGE** e.g. trying new things, having a go, self-evaluation (how am I doing?), standing up for what is right by reporting any problems to an adult in the school.
- **RESPONSIBILITY** e.g. looking after the school and equipment, completing work, knowing the school code [core values] and motto and following the code. Taking responsibility if you have done something wrong.

We also have a school motto which encapsulates these core values: “Be Responsible, be fair, stay positive and care”.

Vision for Assemblies

Collective worship contributes to the life of our school by:

- exploring and re-enforcing the school’s values, listed above
- contributing to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development of our pupils
- affirm the worth of every individual within the school community and in the wider community, in line with our curriculum aims
- provide an educational experience for all pupils
- being inclusive and invitational at all times

Assembly pattern:

Day	Assembly Theme	Led by
Monday	Linking school values with a faith tradition	Headteacher Deputy Headteachers
Tuesday	Topical or Well-being focus	Middle Leaders
Wednesday	Class Assemblies, for each Key Stage. Parents are invited to attend.	Class Teachers, with SLT support
Thursday	In-Class Values or British Values Assembly	Class Teachers
Friday	Sharing and Celebration Assembly	Headteacher Deputy Headteachers

Monday Assemblies

- The Monday assembly links one of our school values with Bible stories and themes as well of those from other religious traditions and none. All Mondays each term are linked across the half term by a Biblical theme/ narrative (two for winter terms to cover all 8 values each academic year)
- All of our values are covered over the 2-year cycle outlined in Appendix A below
- By making the link with the particular value, knowledge, understanding and spiritual development will be deepened over time. In order to support this development, there is a need to consolidate on what was covered in the previous week/s, which mirrors our approach to the curriculum.
- In order to reflect the legal requirements for collective worship, as well as our school context, the majority of assemblies are based on Christian teaching. 50% of the Monday assemblies are based wholly on Christian teaching (4 Christian units out of 8 each year), at least 1 unit reflects the teachings from across a number of religions, 1 is not directly linked to religious teaching and 2 are either based on the teaching of a particular faith or they weave threads from across faith traditions.

Friday Assemblies

- The Friday Assembly is an opportunity to celebrate the success of our pupils, both academically and in terms of our school values.
- Two children from a class bring something to share and then receive a core values badge.
- Two children from each class are awarded a core value certificate.
- There are also certificates for the class with the best school uniform
- Please supply a list of children's names & reasons for awards to the officer manager by Thursday 4pm.

Organisation of Assemblies

The Assistant Head is responsible for the-effective delivery of whole-school worship.

As part of that responsibility s/he will:

- set the themes for the term in conjunction with this policy
- co-ordinate and communicate clearly the assembly rota each term
- offer support, advice and resources for teachers taking assemblies
- prepare any other pupils involved
- keep the staff informed of any changes to the pattern of assemblies.

Additional Notes

Our school community includes those of all faiths and of none. It is important to invite those present to join in prayer giving the option for those who do not wish to pray to simply keep silent and to respect the wishes of others. There is a one-minute reflection time at the end of each assembly.

Parents who wish to withdraw their children from assemblies do so by writing to the Head teacher. Class teachers will be informed if this is the case. Children who are withdrawn should be supervised doing quiet work in a nearby learning area. TAs will supervise this where possible.

Themes and rotas are published at the beginning of the term. If you wish to lead an assembly on a different topic, please consult the assistant headteacher who is responsible for the rota. Any assembly may include appropriate visits from guest speakers.

Appendix A

When?	School Value	Year A		Year B	
		Religion Focus	Theme	Religion Focus	Theme
Autumn 1: Sept	Respect	Reflections on Christian teaching	Whom should we respect? -God -Parents -Authority -Enemies	Reflections on Christian teaching	Respecting difference: -Body of Christ -Daniel the Vegetarian (Daniel 1:6-20) -Jesus and Women -tbc
Autumn 1: Oct	Courage	Reflections on Hindu teaching	Being Brave	Reflections on a range of religious traditions	Standing up for what we believe in
Autumn 2: Nov	Wisdom	Reflections on Jewish and Christian teaching	Proverbs (wise advice)	Reflections on Christian teaching	Jesus' parables
Autumn 2: Dec	Kindness	Reflections on Christian teaching	How Jesus helped others	Reflections on a range of religious traditions	Examples of Kindness from Around the World
Spring 1: Jan-Feb	Responsibility	Reflections on a range of religious traditions	Being Responsible for our Planet	Reflections on teachings from Judaism and Christianity	Stories of David -David and Goliath -David becomes King - David Chooses His Punishment -Helps Mephibosheth
Spring 2: March-April	Hope	Reflections on teaching which is non-religious	Refugees and how we can help	Reflections on Christian teaching	The Easter Story
Summer 1: May-June	Fairness	Christianity	What do Christians believe that the Kingdom of God will be like?	Reflections on teaching which is non-religious	Making the world a more just place
Summer 2: June-July	Honesty	Reflections on teaching from Islam	Why is it important to tell the truth? - The Emperor and the Seed -The Blind Boy -The Pious Man	Reflections on teachings from Judaism and Christianity	Joseph: Honesty and Dishonesty -Dishonesty: The brothers and their Dad -Dishonesty: Potiphar's wife -Honesty: Being honest when it's hard (Baker & Wine) -Dishonesty: The Cup in the Bag -Honesty: The Truth Comes Out -Honesty: Being careful with honesty (Dreams of Joseph)