



DANES HILL SCHOOL
STRONG & SAGACIOUS

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AUTHOR: HEAD OF RELIGIOUS STUDIES

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY



Collective Worship Policy

Introduction

In order to provide pupils at Danes Hill School with the opportunity to worship God and to explore and share Christian based beliefs, acts of collective worship take place regularly.

Children consider the importance of prayer, silence and meditation and are encouraged to consider the relevance of beliefs and ideas to their own lives.

These acts of worship and reflection take place not only in regular whole school assemblies but also in-house assemblies, section or year group assemblies, form assemblies and PSHE lessons/Circle time. **RS and TPR** lessons in particular, include many opportunities for reflection and the sharing of ideas and feelings (see RS policy document.)

Danes Hill School promotes the values of our community through music, drama, storytelling, prayer and hymns. Visiting speakers, particularly representatives from charitable organisations such as the NSPCC or CHASE, also provide valuable opportunities for our children to contemplate the value of helping others, particularly those less fortunate than us.

Children are also encouraged to study world religions and to be aware of religious festivals – Christian and otherwise, throughout the year.

Visiting speakers as well as **children and members of staff** with different religious/ethnic backgrounds are therefore invited, on occasion, to talk to the school in assembly and to share their beliefs with the children in order to promote the value of cultural diversity, to increase understanding and to encourage tolerance of other faiths **and cultures**. (See Ethnic and Cultural Diversity policy).

Aims

- To consider moral and spiritual issues
- To develop and reflect on children's own beliefs and feelings
- To celebrate their own successes and the successes of others
- To develop shared ideas and develop a community spirit
- To consider the benefits of living in a multi-cultural society and to learn respect for all - regardless of ethnic or religious differences.
- To provide opportunities for our pupils to worship God and to reflect on Christian values.

Implementation

Pre-Prep (Transition to Year 1)

The Head of Pre- Prep has responsibility for organising acts of collective worship for all the children at Bevendean.

Reception and Year 1 children attend assemblies twice a week. Transition children join them as appropriate.

The content of these assemblies include singing a hymn, saying prayers, listening to moral tales or bible stories and considering themes such as 'Making Friends' or 'Being Kind'. The children's work and achievements are also celebrated.

It is also considered important to teach the children an awareness and appreciation of other cultures and faiths.

Lower School children (Years 2 and 3) attend assemblies with the middle and upper school, as well as having their own weekly assembly, organised by the Head of the Lower School.

Middle School children also attend their own assembly as well as the two whole school assemblies each week.

Main School

The Head has overall responsibility for organising the length, content and structure of assemblies. The Heads of Section and Head of RS and the Deputy Head all assist and organise these acts of collective worship. Upper School tutor groups are also selected on occasions to take an assembly with a specific moral theme.

Parents are invited to join the children in special assemblies, both at Bevendean and in the Ark (with Middle and Lower school children). The children lead assemblies on these and other occasions. They choose a theme or write prayers, interpret a bible story/moral tale and present their feelings and ideas in a variety of ways.

Assemblies are broadly Christian based in nature and uphold the values and beliefs of the Danes Hill community as a whole, namely the appreciation of nature, the wonder of creation and the contemplation of the values of kindness, caring for others and loving one's neighbour.

Monitoring, Evaluation and Review

The effectiveness and role of assemblies and other occasions during the school day when collective worship takes place are regularly monitored.

At Danes Hill School children have opportunities to share their thoughts and feelings and to worship God in prayer or silent contemplation and the Head of Pastoral Care review this policy annually.