

Intent

We believe that worship is a special act or occasion whose purpose is to encourage pupils to reflect. Collective worship at Pound Hill Infant Academy involves our children coming together to participate in an assembly.

At Pound Hill Infant Academy, we are extremely fortunate to have a diverse span of cultures and religious beliefs across our families. As a result we ensure that although our assemblies are in line with the 1988 Education Reform Act, which states that collective worship should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character', we ensure that our assemblies reflect the religious traditions that are represented in the academy and the wider community. We conduct our assemblies in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs of all our children.

Implementation

We hold a daily act of collective worship in our academy, which includes time for reflection.

Day	Academy/Staff	Focus
Monday pm	Whole Academy/SLT	Values and Wellbeing - Pause for thought!
Tuesday	Class assembly/Teacher	Educated Citizens: What's in the news? Celebrations and Events – Appreciating human creativity and achievement
Wednesday pm	Whole Academy/SLT/Members of the Community	Our Wider World - celebrating and learning from the cultural diversity within our Academy
Thursday pm	Whole Academy/SLT	Music and Singing
Friday pm	Whole Academy/SLT	Recognition Assembly!

We pride ourselves in conducting assemblies in a dignified and respectful way and share with our children that assembly time is a period of calm reflection. We regard it as a valued time, due to the whole school community coming together during this time and as such expect children to behave in an appropriate way.

The Principal and members of the Senior Leadership Team lead our assemblies, but we also welcome the opportunity for members of our local community, including those involved with organisations such as the Lighthouse Project to visit the academy and lead assemblies.

We take the themes of our assemblies from various sources including our PSHCE curriculum, British Values and SMSC planning. We ensure that we dedicate appropriate time during assemblies to celebrating the festivals and events of the Christian calendar and other religious calendars observed by the children within our academy community.

We plan our assemblies as part of a series of themes well in advance of the day they take place, ensuring that our children learn from the ethical and moral teaching which comes from them. Our assemblies are planned in order to complement the RE curriculum where appropriate.

We hold a Recognition Assembly every Friday, where the Principal invites each class teacher to share details surrounding our children's achievements for that week. This is an assembly which the children and staff all look forward to, as it encapsulates the success and hard work of our children and celebrates this with the rest of the academy community.

Right of Withdrawal

"The Academy Trust must provide for the teaching of Religious Education and a daily act of collective worship at the academy."

We do expect all pupils to attend assembly. However, any parent can request permission from the Principal for their child to be excused from attending religious worship, if it is deemed appropriate for a child not to participate, the academy will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during the period concerned. Parents do not have to explain or give reasons for this, through conversations with the Principal, in accordance with the 1944 Education Act and was restated in the 1988 Education Reform Act.

Monitoring and Review

It is the role of our Local Board to monitor this policy and our academy practice of collective worship. Any concerns raised with the Principal are acted upon as required.

Impact

Daily collective worship enables the academy to:

- Provide an opportunity for the pupils to worship and reflect;
- Enable pupils to consider spiritual and moral issues;
- Enable pupils to explore their own beliefs;
- Encourage participation and response;
- Develop a sense of community spirit in pupils;
- Promote a common ethos with shared values and to reinforce positive attitudes;
- Teach pupils how to worship.

Policy Status and Review

Written by: Principal

Reviewed: September 2022

Next review due: September 2023