

Stepney Primary School



A Small School With Great Expectations

Assembly and Worship Policy

At Stepney' raising the achievement and basic skills of pupils and ensuring that they reach their full potential is the responsibility of all staff

At Stepney we view assemblies as a very special time of togetherness which is different to the rest of the school day. It can be the only time when we come together as a whole school and it is regarded as a central part of our school life.

1. AIMS

1.1 At Stepney, we aim to:

- fulfil the legal requirement for pupils;
- encourage pupils to think about themselves and their place in society; to be socially aware and responsible;
- encourage self-worth;
- promote pupils' moral awareness and responsibility;
- develop a caring attitude;
- give children opportunities to experience awe and wonder at the world around them and to focus within;
- develop pupils' tolerance and understanding of other religions and cultures;
- encourage a sense of community cohesion and common values within our school;
- share achievement;
- celebrate diversity within unity.

1.2 The means of achieving these aims

- We aim to fulfil legal requirements by adhering to the concept of a 'broadly' Christian description of our assemblies and acts of worship.
- The broad traditions of Christian belief are wide ranging and contain views which are very wide and common to many faiths, such as:-
- How to care for others;
- The importance of tolerance;
- Relations between humans should be guided by respect and love;
- People should exercise the power they have over the environment and their fellow creatures in the spirit of love;
- There is a greater 'force' than us, a supreme spiritual reality commonly called God.
- Through our assemblies we will emphasise these.

We have a designated timetable of themes for each week of the school year, which also links in with our SEAL (Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning) programme.

There will be times when we use materials from many world faiths and cultures; such materials will reflect sentiments consonant with 'broadly Christian'.

2. PLANNING & DELIVERING ASSEMBLIES AND WORSHIP

Staff have the task of planning, organising and delivering assemblies.

We have no rigid format for assemblies but they often include music, stories, hymns songs, a thought or a prayer or they may emphasise our classroom achievements; there may be a time for quiet and stillness.

At our school we understand the term 'worship' to be a time of thought or thanks and would encourage pupils to be active rather than passive. Our worship may take the form of:

- Singing hymns;

- Listening to prayers or listening to a relevant thought;
- Quiet and stillness

Not all of our assemblies will have worship and worship does not necessarily have to be in assemblies

3. FREQUENCY AND TIMINGS

Our weekly pattern of assemblies typically comprises:

MONDAY	Sharing achievement in Mighty Maths.
TUESDAY	Whole school assembly led by Head teacher/Deputy Head teacher.
WEDNESDAY	Sharing achievement in Reading/Writing.
THURSDAY	Whole school assembly; classes take turns presenting aspects of their work to parents and the community <u>or</u> we have visitors talking about specific issues.
FRIDAY	Hymn Assembly (am) Whole school achievement assembly, where pupils' achievements are celebrated (pm)

In our assemblies, we have time for a hymn, thoughts for other people and a school prayer, which was written by year 6 pupils

We have special services, for example the Harvest Festival Assembly, which are held in school and other services, such as our Christmas one, which are held in St. Mary's Church, Sculcoates.

Morning assemblies are between 10.30am and 10.45am
Friday afternoon assemblies are between 2.55pm and 3.15pm

4. WITHDRAWAL

Parents have a legal right to withdraw their pupils from acts of Christian worship. Teachers also have the right of withdrawal from acts of Christian worship and should discuss such request with the Head teacher.

5. VISITING REPRESENTATIVES OF LOCAL RELIGIOUS GROUPS

In line with our school aims we try to work with the wider community for the benefit of all pupils. We will make every effort to maintain and build links with many local religious groups, Christian and non-Christian. We will always try to inform parents of these before they take place.

6. PERSON RESPONSIBLE

The RE Coordinator is responsible for organising representatives from local religious groups.

It has been updated by Mr P Browning in Spring 2016.
This policy will be reviewed in Spring 2018

7. PUBLIC SECTOR EQUALITY DUTY

Please note: When we have updated policies from April 2012 onwards, we have referred to the requirements of the PSED, which state that as part of their statutory duties, schools need to comply with this by 6th April 2012.

The Equality Act 2010 replaced and unified all existing equality legislation such as the Race Relations Act, Disability Discrimination Act and Sex Discrimination Act. It aims to ensure that people have equality of opportunity in accessing and experiencing public services. Schools when carrying out their day to day work should have regard to the following:

- eliminating discrimination
- advancing equality of opportunity and
- foster good relations across all characteristics

Schools cannot unlawfully discriminate against pupils because of their disability, gender, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation. Protection is now extended to pupils who are pregnant or undergoing gender reassignment. This means it is now unlawful to discriminate against a transgender pupil or a pupil who is pregnant or recently had a baby.

This policy was reviewed and updated with reference to this duty. The author/s of this document and the Policy Committee of the Governing Body, which checks all policies before publication, considered this policy in the light of these requirements to ensure that Stepney Primary School adheres to these statutory regulations.