



Brize Norton Primary School **Collective Worship**

We **SHINE** for ourselves and each other
Shining, Helping, Inspiring, Nurturing,
Excelling

Policy adopted by Governors on:	Date for Review:	Signed by Chair of Governors:
May 2023	May 2025	A.Doran

Aims and Purpose

The aims and purpose of collective worship are:

- to promote a common ethos with our shared values of SHINE.
- to develop in children a sense of community (school, village, national and world)
- to reinforce positive attitudes.
- to celebrate differences and similarities and to encourage respect for cultures different from our own.
- to increase sensitivity to the mystery in life and to encourage a reflective approach to life.
- to encourage children to think and to question and to develop a moral code.
- to create an atmosphere where worship and reflection can take place.

Collective worship is a time when the whole school, or part of the school, comes together to celebrate shared beliefs, values and successes. It is an important part of each day and contributes to spiritual, moral, personal and social development.

Collective Worship

In line with the 1998 Education Reform Act, which states that collective worship should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character', we normally base our assemblies on the teachings of Christ, reflecting on the broad traditions of Christian belief e.g. love as the central ethic, respect for the individual etc. We do, however, conduct assemblies in a manner that is sensitive to people of other faiths and none.

Organisation of Collective Worship

We hold an assembly in our school every day.

Monday:

Whole school assembly led by the headteacher – we explore our motto of SHINE through stories and experiences.

Tuesday:

Whole school assembly led by Mr Long from the church – we explore different Christian stories, beliefs and other faiths and how they embody our values.

Wednesday:

Lower school and Upper school alternate weekly either between joining in their phases or as a class led by a class teacher – we explore topical themes and values at a more age-related level.

Thursday:

Whole school singing assembly

Friday:

Whole school celebration assembly led by the headteacher – we celebrate our successes in school and out with a focus on SHINE: striving, helping, inspiring, nurturing, excelling.

We believe assemblies are an important time and keep an assembly routine to help children recognise this. We expect children to behave in an appropriate way. We tell

children that assembly is a time for listening, thinking and reflecting. We encourage children to join in with the assembly through use of questions, song and drama. We are developing leadership roles for the children, enabling them to organise, plan and lead assemblies for the whole school.

The headteacher or other members of staff conduct the assemblies. Our assembly themes link with our PSHE work in classrooms and our school values. We also link our themes to traditions of the Christian faith and we often reflect the festivals and key events in the Christian or school calendar. Our assembly themes are planned and agreed at the start of each term. Each week, the school and families minister leads a whole school assembly exploring Christian and other faiths, focusing on the core values and morals within them. Often throughout the year we are fortunate to be able to invite visitors to also speak in assembly.

Some assemblies reflect the achievements and learning of the children. Assemblies offer an opportunity to acknowledge and reward children for their successes both in and out of school. They play an important role in promoting the ethos of the school, which is that all children are valued and their opinions respected. We hold celebration assembly once a week, during which children are identified for praise and given certificates. Throughout the year, we invite parents to sharing assemblies so they can join us in celebrating the achievements of their children.

Format

Assemblies can include songs, stories, poems, reflections or information. Some assemblies include a prayer, but prayers are presented in such a way that children may join in or not, as long as they remain quiet and respect others.

Right of withdrawal

We expect all children to attend assembly. However, any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from attending religious worship and the school will make alternative arrangement for the supervision of the child during the period concerned. This complies with the 1944 Education Act and was reinstated in the 1988 Education Reform Act. A record will be kept of all children who are withdrawn from collective worship.