



Collective Worship/Assembly Policy

Our Shared Vision

At Becontree Primary School we have **high expectations** of all members of our school community. We **value** the efforts of all and work to enable everyone associated with the school to fulfil their potential and **contribute positively** to their educational experiences. Our school motto '**Respecting One Another**' includes showing respect for ourselves and others.

Equality Mission Statement

We are committed to ensuring equality of educational opportunity and support for all pupils, parents, carers, staff and visitors irrespective of age, sex, race, disability, religion or belief, sexual orientation, pregnancy, gender reassignment, and socio-economic background. We aim to provide a fully inclusive school in which every person feels proud of their identity and is able to participate fully within the school community. We believe that a diverse school community is a strength which should be respected and celebrated by all those who learn, teach and visit here.

Approved by: Governing Body	Date:
Last reviewed on: January 2025	Next review date: January 2026

Rationale

Becontree Primary School provides all pupils with an opportunity to take part in an act of daily reflection appropriate for an educational setting, recognising the many religious and non-religious beliefs of all the children and teachers involved.

Following definitions in the 1988 Education Reform Act the term “collective worship” is used here to describe the assembling of pupils in order to promote their spiritual, moral and cultural development.

It is not appropriate, in support of community cohesion and in recognition of the school's multi-faith community, for the school to promote any one set of faith beliefs being held in higher regard than another.

Therefore, such collective worship is centred round themes found to be of a broadly Christian character, though not distinctive of any particular Christian denomination. Through using themes, sympathetic to all faiths, we will always promote respect for and understanding of those with different beliefs and religious practices so as to be fully inclusive.

Purposes

To meet the requirements of the 1988 Education Reform Act (updated in the 1994 Collective Worship in Schools Guidance), we aim to:

- Develop community spirit, promoting a common ethos and shared values reinforce positive attitudes.
- Enable pupils to experience a variety of forms of worship and offer opportunities to share faith with others, particularly those religious traditions within the community which may be represented within the school, with the purpose of promoting dialogue, tolerance, and respect for the rights of others to hold beliefs different to one's own.
- Encourage attitudes of sensitivity and openness towards religious and moral ideas, beliefs and practices.
- Raise awareness of the distinctive significance of the major teachings, books, beliefs and festivals for members of other faiths, and how these might inspire and regulate their lives and conduct.
- Help pupils interpret their own experiences of life and contribute towards their personal development.

Guidelines

Assembly and reflection will take place as follows:

Monday: Reflective practice in themed assembly in phases (KS1/KS2) – including a thought/prayer (30 min)

‘Votes for Schools’ assemblies used as it ensures that we cover current local and world issues.

Tuesday: Reflective practice in class (10 minutes)

Wednesday Singing Assembly – including thought prayer (20 minutes)

Thursday: Reflective practice in class (10 minutes)

Friday: Reflective practice in themed assembly in phases (KS1/KS2) – including a thought/prayer (20 min) Led by LMT.

Those present during assemblies will be encouraged to participate and respond, either through active involvement or through listening to and reflecting on the issues underpinning the week's theme.

Material for assembly and collective worship will be drawn from a variety of sources; such material will be divided into weekly themes and should include a story or reading, a moment of reflection, a song, and music.

Content will include:

- a) Celebrations, which are part of the annual cycle from religions, and secular traditions;
- b) Topical issues;
- c) Lives of famous people pertinent to different races/faiths;
- d) Stories from a range of religious writings;
- e) Broad issues such as morality, caring, and charity;
- f) Assemblies from Votes for Schools;
- g) British Values;
- h) Class presentations – e.g. poetry recitals (Every class in year 1 to 6 have an opportunity to rehearse and present an assembly to an audience – parents/carers are also invited to attend).

The assembly coordinator puts the assembly rota together based on agreed themes/topics for that half term. Class teachers and the leadership team take turns to lead and support in assemblies. The Events Overview for the year is planned by SLT and feeds into the assembly planning. This includes cultural events, whole school celebrations, British values, behaviour themes etc.

'Votes for Schools' are used for weekly assemblies in KS1 and KS2. These are very current and cover topical events. They also lead to children voting to express their opinions on the matters discussed. This is shared in the Friday celebration assemblies.

Songs are taught which are in keeping with the 'lessons' promoted through assemblies and collective worship and are used daily to reinforce the messages and to promote the school's feeling of 'community'.

Music to play at the beginning and end of assembly is varied between classical and contemporary music. Each piece is relevant to the date in which it is played. PowerPoint presentations are used to play the songs with accompanying explanations on slides. These slides include information about the song and composer/ artist.

PowerPoint presentations of all the songs are available, as are accompanying backing tracks. These are in the halls readily available. Assembly materials are kept in the staff room and are pre-prepared by the assembly co-ordinator.

Each assembly ends with a weekly thought prayer providing a moment of reflection.

Where circumstances dictate, parents have the right to withdraw their children from collective worship.