



**BICKLEY PARK  
SCHOOL**

# Assemblies and Collective Worship Policy

## Policy Details

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## Contents

Introduction .....	4
When assemblies and collective worship take place.....	4
Pre-Prep Department: .....	4
EYFS .....	4
The Nursery have circle time on a daily basis, led by different members of staff. During these times children are awarded certificates, for completing sticker charts; birthday cards and certificates and other awards. The children are encouraged to stand in front of their peers to receive awards and talk about their birthdays. Interactive stories are also read with a moral highlighting good manners, behaviour and the school values.....	4
Y1, Y2 and Reception.....	4
Pre-Prep Department assemblies usually start at 8.40am and end at 9.00am. ....	4
Prep Department:.....	5
Collective worship includes: .....	5
• Harvest Service: .....	5
• Christmas Service: .....	5
• Easter Service: .....	5
Other assemblies and collective times of reflection include: .....	6
• Achievements Assemblies .....	6
• Remembrance Day .....	6
• Topical events.....	6
Assemblies and acts of collective worship at Bickley Park School should:.....	6
Assembly Themes and British Values .....	6
Inclusion.....	6
Monitoring & Review .....	7
Appendix A:.....	8
School aims:.....	8
School Values: .....	8
The Bickley Park Way .....	8
Appendix B.....	9
Key events in the Christian calendar: .....	9
Key Events in other religions .....	9
Appendix C.....	10
Assembly Themes.....	10
Promoting Key British Values: .....	10
Appendix D.....	11

**ASSEMBLIES AND COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY**

Prayer/Reflective time: ..... 11

Hymns:..... 11

### Introduction

The aim of the assemblies and collective worship policy is to provide the opportunity for pupils to:

- develop an understanding, collectively and individually, of the beliefs and principles of the Christian faith
- reflect on values espoused by Christians and relate them to school values and boys' own beliefs
- celebrate, and develop an understanding of, key Christian occasions through the year, e.g: Easter, Harvest and Christmas
- develop an understanding, collectively and individually, of the beliefs and principles of other religions and a respect for the fact that others have the right to believe in different things and none
- develop a sense of awe and wonder of the world in which we live and the spiritual dimension of religion and life
- gain a strong moral compass, knowing right from wrong and acting proactively to uphold strong moral principles
- develop an understanding of what it means to serve others and engage fully, effectively and positively in a community
- develop respect for the culture and beliefs of others
- develop an appreciation of British values
- develop a full understanding of The Bickley Park Way and how to implement it in their lives

### When assemblies and collective worship take place

Assemblies take place as follows:

#### Pre-Prep Department:

##### EYFS

The Nursery have circle time on a daily basis, led by different members of staff. During these times children are awarded certificates, for completing sticker charts; birthday cards and certificates and other awards. The children are encouraged to stand in front of their peers to receive awards and talk about their birthdays. Interactive stories are also read with a moral highlighting good manners, behaviour and the school values.

##### Y1, Y2 and Reception

Pre-Prep Department assemblies usually start at 8.40am and end at 9.00am.

**Monday:** This assembly is taken by the Head of Pre-Prep and will be based around the weekly PSHE topic or will relate to the school values.

**Tuesday:** Music assembly. This assembly is led by the Head of Music and will be based around the weekly PSHE topic, Creative Curriculum topic, seasonal topic, or will relate to the school values.

**Wednesday:** Reception assembly. This assembly is led by the Reception Lead and will be based around the weekly PSHE topic or will relate to the school values.

**Thursday:** Reception, Y1 and Y2 Achievements and Celebration Assembly. This assembly is led by the Head and the Head of Pre-Prep. Each Y1 and Y2 class teacher will award a merit to an individual pupil for a specific reason, which is explained in the assembly. Reception Pupils are awarded gold awards on the

## ASSEMBLIES AND COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

same basis. The work related to the merit or gold award may also be shown. In addition to the merits and gold awards, any other achievements are also recognised and certificates and trophies will be presented.

### Prep Department:

Prep Department assemblies take place regularly through the week every Monday and Wednesday - Y3/4 1150 and Y5-8 1340.

**Monday:** Form period: Organisational/pastoral matters are discussed. Age appropriate issues related to the boys are discussed and concerns are addressed. Y3/4 receive an assembly focussed on the weekly PSHE theme and is led by a member of staff.

**Tuesday:** Form period: Organisational/pastoral matters are discussed. Age appropriate issues related to the boys are discussed and concerns are addressed.

**Wednesday:** Form period: Organisational/pastoral matters are discussed. Age appropriate issues related to the boys are discussed and concerns are addressed. Y5-8 receive an assembly focussed on the weekly PSHE theme. 4/5 times a term vertically integrated Houses gather together: the weekly PSHE theme is discussed and motivational talks linked to school aims and values are given. Boys put their house points into the tube and merit awards are given. Up-coming competitions are discussed. The assembly concludes with a moment of reflection and notices.

**Thursday:** Form period: Organisational/pastoral matters are discussed. Age appropriate issues related to the boys are discussed and concerns are addressed.

**Friday:** Form period: Organisational/pastoral matters are discussed. Age appropriate issues related to the boys are discussed and concerns are addressed.

**End of each half term:** Y3/4 and Y5-8 boys and staff gather to celebrate achievements for the term. Staff award distinctions to boys that are presented during an assembly via a presentation led by the Head of Houses and senior boys.

### Collective worship includes:

- **Harvest Service:** This takes place at school and is used to further pupils understanding of the world in which we live. The Head of Pre-Prep and the Head of Prep manage the programme of community giving, including the collection, display and delivery of gifts.
- **Christmas Service:** This takes place in St George's Church. It is led by a parish priest. The Head coordinates the readers. The Head of Music and the Head of Drama arranges a programme of carols. The Heads Prep and Pre-Prep will organise the logistics. The service follows a traditional carol service model and is attended by the whole school from Y2 – Y8.
- **Easter Service:** This takes place in St George's Church. It is led by a parish priest. The Head coordinates the readers. The Head of Music and the Head of Drama arranges a programme of carols. The Heads Prep and Pre-Prep will organise the logistics. The service follows a traditional carol service model and is attended by the whole school from Y2 – Y8.

## ASSEMBLIES AND COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

Other assemblies and collective times of reflection include:

- **Achievements Assemblies** take place at the end of every half term for the Prep Department. Through the course of the year, pupils in the Prep department receive rewards and recognition for something of note they have done. The assemblies are led by the Head of Prep.
- **Remembrance Day** This involves suitable readings and two minutes silence to remember those affected by war
- **Topical events**, such as national/international disasters or times of bereavement by someone closely involved in the school community
- Assemblies related to **national fund raising** events, e.g: Comic Relief, Sports Aid, which highlight the plight of people in difficult circumstances
- Assemblies about **special school events**, such as trips overseas and assemblies at the end of World Culture topics

Assemblies and acts of collective worship at Bickley Park School should:

- Have a clear message that is accessible to the age of pupils attending and engages their interest
- Be boy-friendly and, where possible, involve pupils
- Be mindful of the ethos, values and aims of the school and the aims set out in the Assemblies and Collective Worship Policy
- Be sensitive to, and mindful of, the beliefs of individuals, including those who are non-believers, or from other faiths

### Assembly Themes and British Values

Each half term our assemblies are given a theme based around the Jigsaw PSHE programme. This is to reinforce the schools values and supports the PSHE scheme. However, there may be occasions when other topics form an assembly away from the core themes. Throughout the year we aim to promote British values through our collective times together. The assembly themes and key British values can all be found in appendix c.

### Inclusion

All children matter and are given every opportunity to achieve their best. We achieve this by planning assemblies that will meet the needs of all boys, children with special educational needs, children who are more able, children with disabilities and children from all social and cultural backgrounds, different ethnic groups and diverse linguistic backgrounds.

We meet the needs of all children by employing resources that reflect diversity and are free from discrimination and stereotyping and using a range of teaching strategies that are based on pupils' needs. We ensure access to every activity, where it is safe and reasonable to do so.

We expect children to attend assembly and acts of collective worship. However, any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from attending religious worship and the school 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. This complies with the 1988 Education Reform Act. The Head keeps a record of all children who withdraw from collective worship.

## Monitoring & Review

The school will review this policy as per the review cycle and assess its implementation and effectiveness. The policy will be promoted and implemented throughout the school. This policy appears on the School's website: [www.bickleyparkschool.co.uk](http://www.bickleyparkschool.co.uk)

**This is a whole School policy and applies to all members of Bickley Park School, including EYFS.**

## Appendix A:

### School aims:

- To aspire to be a world class preparatory school for boys
- To provide an education tailored to how boys learn and aimed at motivating them to achieve.
- To deliver a balanced, challenging and quality curriculum that arms pupils with the skills and attributes to thrive in their later lives as individuals and global citizens.

### School Values:

At Bickley Park School we recognise that we are all unique individuals. However, together we strive to share these common values which are all set out in the Bickley Park Way:

Kindness – acting with generosity of spirit.

Honesty – telling the truth.

Respect – recognising the value in another person.

Integrity – doing the right thing even when no-one is watching.

Perseverance – getting through something even if it is hard.

### The Bickley Park Way

We believe that we should:

Share.

Be honest.

Be kind and helpful.

Treat others as we would be treated.

Listen to one another and try to understand other people's points of view.

Forgive - recognise that everyone, including ourselves, makes mistakes.

Respect others, recognising that they are important too.

Be resilient, learning from things that go wrong and aiming for better next time.

**Work hard to do your best to be your best self**

## Appendix B

Key events in the Christian calendar:

- January 6<sup>th</sup>: Epiphany
- Ash Wednesday
- March 1<sup>st</sup>: St David's Day
- ☒March 17<sup>th</sup>: St Patrick' Day
- Holy Week (Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Day)
- April 23<sup>rd</sup>: St George's Day
- Ascension Day
- Pentecost
- Harvest
- November 30<sup>th</sup>: St Andrew's Day
- Christmas

### Key Events in other religions

- Diwali
- Ramadan
- Eid
- Passover
- Hanukkah

## Appendix C

### Assembly Themes

- Autumn 1: Being Me in My World
- Autumn 2: Celebrating Difference (including anti-bullying)
- Spring 1: Dreams and Goals
- Spring 2: Healthy Me
- Summer 1: Relationships
- Summer 2: Changing Me (including Transition)

### Promoting Key British Values:

- Upholding democratic values, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs
- Promoting self-knowledge, self-esteem and self-confidence
- Distinguishing right from wrong and respecting the civil and criminal law of England
- Accepting responsibility for behaviour, showing initiative and contributing positively to the local community and society at large
- Gaining a knowledge of, and respect for, public institutions and services in England
- Promoting tolerance, respect and harmony between different cultural traditions
- Encouraging respect for democracy and participation in the democratic process and the basis in which law is made and applied in England

## Appendix D

### Prayer/Reflective time:

Prayer is a very personal concept. At Bickley Park School, we encourage boys to close their eyes and put their hands together when a prayer is being said. Silent, respectful reflection takes place and pupils may opt to say Amen at the end of a prayer if they wish. Prayers are usually preceded by 'Dear God'.

A time of mindful quiet is used at the start of some assemblies and at the beginning of PSHE sessions. This is implemented with the use of a chime.

### Hymns:

Hymns sung are predominantly Christian and their choice aligns with the theme of assemblies and acts of collective worship. It is intended that their content is accessible to the age and abilities of pupils who will be singing them. Where possible, they are practised beforehand.