

## **Bickley Park School**

### **Assemblies and Collective Worship Policy**

#### **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
- 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

#### **When assemblies and collective worship take place**

Assemblies take place as follows:

##### **Pre-Prep Department:**

##### **EYFS**

EYFS Department assemblies are usually weekly on Friday mornings for 15 minutes. These are for Bumble Bee children. It is a 'special assembly', led by the Head of EYFS in which 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.

##### **KS1 and Reception**

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

**Monday:** Form Time. This is led by the class teacher and will be based on the topic for that half term and any housekeeping required for that class.

**Tuesday:** Singing assembly. This assembly is led by the Head of Music and will involve singing a variety of religious hymns and songs.

**Wednesday:** KS1 and Reception Achievements and Celebration Assembly. This assembly is led by the Assistant Heads Pre Prep. Each KS1 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 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. The assembly includes a hymn and a moment of reflection.

**Thursday:** This assembly is taken by the Assistant Head Pastoral Pre Prep and will be based around the topic for the term or will relate to the school values.

### **Prep Department:**

Prep Department assemblies take place daily from 11am – 11:20am, except on Fridays when there are two assemblies with the first beginning at 8.45am and ending at 9.00am.

**Monday:** Pastoral form period: Organisational matters are discussed. Age appropriate issues related to the boys are discussed and concerns are addressed.

**Tuesday:** Prep Department Awards and Achievements assembly: This assembly is led by the Headmaster and reflects on activity from the previous week. Boys' endeavour and achievement is celebrated. The winner of the weekly House Points Competition is announced and the cup collected by the House Captain. The assembly concludes with notices.

**Wednesday:** Academic form period: Reading opportunities are provided and any organisational academic matters are discussed.

**Thursday:** Whole Department singing assembly: This assembly is currently led by the Head of Performing Arts. It is an opportunity for the whole school to prepare songs that will be used in forthcoming celebrations or to learn a song to sing together for enjoyment.

**Friday (8:40am):** Performance and visiting speaker assemblies normally take place on a Friday. These comprise a presentation by a form group or a speaker (internal or external) introducing a topic related to the themes described in the introduction to this policy, school aims and values (Appendix A), P.S.H.E. programme of study (see separate policy), key dates in the Christian year (Appendix B), British Values (Appendix C), and topical themes, or a Drama presentation showcasing current work.

**Friday (11am):** House assemblies: 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.

### **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 Religious Studies manages 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 Headmaster coordinates the readers. The Head of Performing Arts, in conjunction with the Choral Coordinator and Music Coordinator, arranges a programme of carols. The Assistant Heads Prep and Pre Prep will organise the logistics. When possible, mince pies and mulled wine is served in the church hall after the service, as a community exercise. The Prep will follow a traditional carol service model, while the Pre Prep will attend a more informal Crib service.
- Easter Service: This takes place in St George's Church. It is led by a parish priest. The Headmaster coordinates the readers. The Head of Performing Arts, in conjunction with the Choral Coordinator and Music Coordinator, arranges a programme of carols. The Assistant Heads Prep and Pre Prep will organise the logistics.

### **Other assemblies and collective times of reflection include:**

- Achievements Assemblies take place at the end of every half term. 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 Assistant Head Prep (Pastoral).
- 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
- Saying a prayer as part of giving thanks for a meal (Pre-Prep)

### **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. 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 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 Headmaster 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)

## **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 – doing thoughtful things for other people
- Honesty – telling the truth.
- Respect – recognising what is special about other people
- Integrity – doing the right thing even when no-one is watching.
- Perseverance – completing something even if it is hard.

## **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's 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

## **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'.

### **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.

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

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| <b>Author</b>               | JP       |                |
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| <b>Date for Next Review</b> | May 2020 |                |