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**Collective Worship**

**Mission Statement**

*At St Giles we are passionate about learning. Our school community includes and values everyone, working together to achieve in a supportive, caring and professional way.*

*Our enthusiasm and positive energy makes St Giles a truly happy and vibrant place to be.*

**Rationale**

At St Giles collective worship forms an integral part of our weekly assemblies which bring the school community together to

* be a time for celebration and for reflecting on things that have worth and meaning to our school community.
* create an atmosphere where pupils’ own beliefs are valued and each one has the opportunity to respond in their own way.
* provide experiences to deepen the inner senses and engender feelings of self-worth and the uniqueness of the individual.
* give pupils a purpose and meaning to life, awe and wonder of the natural world, reverence and respect and a sense of belonging to the community.

**The legal requirements**

We are required by law to ensure that every child attends collective worship unless they are withdrawn by their parents or carers, (see footnote). At St Giles we provide weekly department assemblies, Secondary, Primary and Early Years, which include collective worship.

**Assemblies at St Giles**

The assembly programmes are planned by each department under the leadership of their head of department.

Department assemblies are led by class teachers and cover a range of themes linking to the department topic, religious festivals from different faiths, British culture and values, Personal, Social, Health and Economic education (PSHE) and Social, Moral, Spiritual and Cultural education (SMSC). We acknowledge the wide range of personal beliefs, religions and cultures of the school community and create opportunities to explore and develop core values.

The whole school comes together to celebrate the Christian festivals of Christmas and Easter. Harvest Festival is celebrated in departments. The head teacher leads these assemblies and a member of the leadership team from a local church is invited to lead the prayers.

Children take great pride and pleasure in helping to present their class assembly. Parents and carers are invited to special assemblies.

Assemblies include all of our pupils. Talk and information is balanced with sensory, interactive experiences so that each pupil can participate fully. Pupils sit in a semi-circle so that all can see and take part.

Assemblies are approximately 30minutes long and follow a structure developed by each department to create a special time and place to come together.

* a special beginning and end
* fun activities around the theme
* special music
* time for reflection or prayer
* celebration of individual achievements – special mentions, star of the week, merit awards

**The right to withdraw**

Information for parents on the right to withdraw their child from collective worship is given in the school’s admission booklet. If parents request this the child would remain in their classroom during assemblies following alternative learning activities with a teaching assistant.

Staff have the right to withdraw from assemblies and should see the headteacher if they wish to discuss this further.

This Policy has been approved by the Governing Body of St Giles School at the meeting on

Signed: Chair of Governors

Signed: Headteacher

Date for next Review:

**Assembly in Early Years**

* **Music** Assembly themed music set up by the assembly lead
* **Gong** Once everyone is seated strike gong three times to signify the start of assembly
* **Assembly** 10-minute themed activity/presentation (or sharing work from each class)
* **Mentions** Photos of children from each class will be prepared before assembly. Display photo for each class (EY-Assembly-Mentions folder). Children to stay where they are but stand up if appropriate. All clap and person leading assembly blow bubbles towards the child. Sticker to be given.
* **Star of the week** Photo will be put into folder before assembly (EY-Assembly-Star of the week folder). Display picture. Child can stay where they are but stand up if appropriate. Adult leading takes chimes over and sounds the chimes next to the child. Sticker and certificate to be given
* **Birthdays** Photos will be put in folder before assembly (EY-Assembly-Birthdays folder). Display pictures. Child can stay where they are but stand up if appropriate. Sing Happy Birthday. Adult leading to give out party poppers to adult sat next to birthday child to let them off at end of the song. Sticker to be given.
* **Reflection** Hand candles out, main lights off, display a seasonal/reflective picture (from EY-Assembly-Reflections folder)
* **Gong** Play gong to signify end of assembly.
* **Music** To play while children and adults leave the hall – as arranged by the assembly lead

**Assembly in Primary**

* Music is played as children enter that either introduces the theme of the assembly or is a calm peaceful piece of music (lights low, possible PowerPoint photo or image)
* Welcome to the assembly – greet each class and reflect on the week we have had at school (highlight any special events)
* Main part of assembly to be based around a religious or cultural event, a specific event in the calendar or our current topic. This may be a class assembly where work and achievements are shared and should include a sensory experience for PMLD/SLD learners.
* Reflection time – have a PowerPoint with a key reflection point for the children to think about- pause and be still…
* Special mentions- a child from each class is chosen and their achievement is celebrated and they are awarded a sticker
* Star of the week- one person from Primary is chosen for their achievement and awarded with a certificate, sticker and the Primary star of the week trophy (this is done on rotation throughout each class)
* Birthdays- birthdays are celebrated with the ‘Happy Birthday’ song and birthday candles (battery operated) and the children are given a birthday sticker
* Music is played as the children leave assembly as at the beginning

**Assembly in Secondary**

The Secondary Department come together as a community once a week to share our achievements and celebrate important events. It is a time of celebration and reflection. Secondary assemblies use the following organisation:

* An assembly rota is planned by the Head of Department whereby staff select dates for their class to lead the assembly. The rota contains examples of religious festivals, key dates, dates in history and SEAL themes for staff to select from. This rota is then circulated to staff and the Head Teacher.
* Each assembly lasts approximately 30mins.
* Classes arrive to music playing that is linked to the theme of the assembly.
* The Head of Department welcomes the students and staff in a multi modal manner (Makaton, symbols and speech )and explains which class will be leading assembly.
* Awards are given at the start of assembly. These include “WOW” stickers which highlight students’ achievements in the week, certificates and Form Tutor awards and any other method of celebrating students’ successes.
* The class or teacher leading the assembly then begins their assembly. A typical assembly will involve all students and staff. Assemblies are multi-sensory in nature and activities are matched to students’ needs.
* The assembly concludes with a powerpoint slide of a flickering candle or some other kind of symbol to promote reflective worship.
* As children leave the hall music is played linked to the assembly theme.
* Parents and Carers can be invited for a class assembly at the class teacher’s discretion.