

ASSEMBLY AND WORSHIP

Name of School: Headlands Primary School

Person(s) Responsible:

Headteacher, Governors and
Assembly and Worship Co-ordinator

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Website: www.headlandsprimary.co.uk

Written by Mrs. M. Sproxton February 1997

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Additions from Croner Headteachers Report 182 (article by Geoff Humphrey – April 2000)
regarding “spiritual dimension” - pages 3 and 5.

September 2001 – Reviewed by Mrs. Sproxton – Page 8 Themes for 2001/02 replaced.

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Pages 6 and 7 Assembly time not in morning session so children can be
brought in late. Page 8 Themes for 2003/04 replaced.

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from Policy, to be included in Planning File. Changes to Page 7, Tuesday and Wednesday
times and forms of Assembly.

September 2007 - Reviewed by Mrs Sproxton, Mrs Christodoulou (Governor) and Mrs
Caldwell (Governor). Changes to Page 7. Tuesday and Wednesday ‘Times and Forms’ of
assembly.

Reviewed September 2008 by Mrs Sproxton, Mrs Christodoulou (Governor) and Mrs
Caldwell (Governor) - changes to page 2,3,4,5 and 6

Reviewed September 2011 by Mary Sproxton and Karen Christodoulou (Governor), changes
to times and forms of assembly, addition of example of termly record sheet.

HEADLANDS PRIMARY SCHOOL

A POLICY FOR ASSEMBLY AND WORSHIP

THE LAW

Section 25 of the 1944 Act directed that "the school day ... shall begin with collective worship on the part of all the pupils in attendance".

For County schools the 1988 Reform Act states that:

- There must be a daily act of Collective Worship for every pupil
- The majority of acts of Collective Worship must be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character and should reflect the broad traditions of Christian belief.
- It must be educational
- It must be non denominational
- It can be at any time of the day
- It can be with any normal school grouping of pupils
- Collective Worship is a statutory right of all pupils
- It is not part of the taught curriculum and is discounted from teaching time
- It is a distinct activity that stands alone and may complement the wider curriculum of the school.
- Worship is not learnt or taught but experienced

The responsibility for organising Collective Worship lies with the Head Teacher in a Community School and the Governors in consultation with the Head in Voluntary or Foundation Schools.

In Northamptonshire SACRE have developed a definition of worship that is included in:- Guidance for Schools (July 2007).

WHAT IS WORSHIP?

The following points are raised to convey something of the meaning Worship:

- It is recognised that there is a spiritual dimension to all life, and to the world in which human life is lived;
- Throughout history, people have searched for purpose and meaning in life and have been engaged in an exploration of the spiritual, and Worship was, and is, and will be, an integral part of the human response to life;

Within this context, Worship is:

- An activity that acknowledges the living relationship that exists between God and those who worship;
- An activity in which some people come, with the help of songs and hymns, music, readings and stories, prayers, ritual, and, stillness and silence, to a greater awareness of a deeper understanding about the spiritual, God, self, other people, the world, the meaning and purpose of life;

Collective Worship in a School is not the same as worship in a faith community. Its context is educational. Unlike Worship in a faith community, Collective Worship in a school should not assume that all involved share a faith or have a faith. Collective Worship in a school is an occasion where a group or an individual are able to make a reflective response to a divine being, ideal or value of some worth.

“It is worth remembering that in the English language the meaning of the word “worship” has a wider connotation than just being linked with religion. Worship means “worth-ship” which is the celebration of all that has supreme worth for a community. This includes morality, social concern, personal development and growth, and achievement, as well as religious beliefs and values”

Croner Report Issue 182
Geoff Humphrey
April 2000

The D.F.E.” draft circular of January 1994 defines worship as follows:-

"MEANING OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

'Worship' is not defined in the legislation and in the absence of any such definition it should be taken to have its natural and ordinary meaning. That is, it must in some sense reflect something special or separate from ordinary school activities and it should be concerned with reverence or veneration paid to a divine being or power. However, worship in schools will necessarily be of a different character from worship amongst a group with beliefs in common. The legislation reflects this difference in referring to 'collective worship' rather than 'corporate worship'.

Collective worship and assembly are distinct activities. Although they may take place as part of the same gathering, the difference between the two should be clear. Collective worship can, nevertheless, be related to the day to day life, aspirations and concerns of the school.

'Taking part' in collective worship implies more than simply passive attendance. It follows that an act of collective worship should be capable of eliciting a response from pupils, even though on a particular occasion some of the pupils may not feel able actively to identify with the act of worship."

Education Reform Act 1988.

At Headlands Primary School, worship will include one or more of the following elements:-

- i responding to things of worth.
- ii an invitation to participate or observe.
- iii a recognition and response to the spiritual dimension of human experience.
- iv music, songs or hymns.
- v words or scriptures.
- vi ritual.
- vii stillness and reflection or prayer.

At Headlands Primary School the collective worship will be of a broadly Christian nature.

Compassion	Self-Sacrifice
Trust	Forgiveness
Conviction	Humility
Mercy	Self-Knowledge
Corporate Responsibility	Tolerance
Self-Reliance	Perseverance
Co-operation	Respect
Consideration	Honesty

The school will not discriminate against any pupil on grounds of race, colour, ethnic or national origin, religion, creed, sex or disability with regards to the provision of collective worship.

AIMS

We follow the aims given in the Northamptonshire booklet 'School Assembly and Worship'-

Assembly should aim:

- i) to make a contribution to spiritual awareness, as a broader concept, relating to personal feelings and emotions such as awe, wonder and respect for others.
- ii) to foster a sense of fellowship by bringing pupils together to participate in the experiences of the immediate and wider community;
- iii) to offer an invitation to all present to explore, extend, share and deepen the level of experience;
- iv) to share together emotions such as love, delight, joy, hope, friendship, acceptance, anguish, fear, forgiveness, reverence.

WHOLE SCHOOL AIMS

The act of worship in school is to be regarded as primarily an educational rather than a liturgical experience. Worship in school should provide some experience and understanding of what worship is, so that it remains an option for those who wish to choose it. It should not compromise the integrity of staff or pupils. The parental right to withdraw a child from the act of worship is recognised.

When withdrawal is required parents should consult with the Headteacher. On some days assemblies will be at the beginning of the school day so that parents who wish to withdraw their child from an act of worship can bring their child to school later and register with the school office on arrival. Should parents not be able to do this the child will need to bring to school something to do that is appropriate for the time of worship. The child will be supervised either in the reception area or the library by office or librarian staff who may be available during assembly time. The nature of our assemblies requires that as many school staff as possible attend along with the children.

SPIRITUAL AND MORAL

Worship at Headlands Primary School will make an important, but not exclusive contribution to the spiritual, moral and cultural development of the pupils. It will give children time for reflection and opportunity to respond to spiritual and moral issues. We would hope to foster a community spirit with shared values. Those present can be invited to contribute at a personal level in their response to the content, form and presentation of the worship experience. Collective worship should encourage consideration of the beliefs and views of all within the school community.

(see P.S.H.E. Policy).

ORGANISATION

At Headlands Primary School each pupil's contribution to an act of worship will be valued. Pupils will be invited to join in an act of worship with phrases such as "be still and think about these words". Teachers must give clear instruction to ensure stillness and quiet so that children have the opportunity to share the prayer if they wish to do so.

Staff should be aware of the ages, aptitudes and backgrounds of the pupils when arranging assemblies. Acts of worship should be appropriate for pupils from both Christian and non-Christian backgrounds.

Each week the assemblies will be linked by a common theme. These will be set for the school year with reference to the significant dates for the major religions, seasonal change and experiences of the children.

Collective worship at Headlands Primary School will take place during assembly times.

Assembly should be regarded as a time to share with the group, whether a class, year group or whole school.

It is important to set the scene for an assembly with a quiet entry. Prior notice will be given of seating in the round, otherwise children should be seated in lines across the width of the hall. Staff should settle their children quietly, draw their attention to the music being played, and its title, or to a visual aid and await the entry of the rest of the assembly. Our example, participation, involvement and interest in an assembly with young children is vital. A quiet exit is also important.

TIMES AND FORMS OF ASSEMBLY

MONDAY

On Monday the class teacher will introduce the theme for the week in a class assembly. It will be a time when children are in a smaller group and may have the opportunity to offer their own thoughts and responses. The theme will often tie in with the SEAL programme followed in PSHE throughout the school.

TUESDAY

On Tuesday the theme will be continued in the whole school or Key Stage assembly. There will be a quiet time for reflection or a prayer led by Head Teacher, Key Stage Co-ordinator or visiting speaker.

WEDNESDAY

On Wednesday children will take part in circle time or quiet reflection in their classroom.

THURSDAY

On Thursday the whole school assembly is taken by a class. The theme of the week can be explored through dance, art, poetry, drama, etc. Parents and friends are invited to the assembly. A crèche is available for all pre-school children.

FRIDAY

Birthdays and awards. Children's birthdays and achievements are shared with the rest of the school and any family members or friends who wish to attend. This assembly is open to pre-school members of the family. There will be quiet time for reflection or a prayer.

At the end of terms 2, 4 and 6, class Teachers to return assembly record sheet to head teacher with names of any children who are withdrawn from assembly noted on it.

Headlands Primary School operates a total non-smoking policy within both the school buildings and the school grounds.

Assembly themes and record 2011-2012

Class..... Teacher.....

Date- week beginning..	Theme	Tues	Thurs	teacher
Sept 5 -	New beginnings	AL		
Sept 12-		SEAL CF / JG		
Sept 19	Getting on together	Protective behaviours RM /MB		
Sept 26	Rosh Hashanah – Jewish new year (29)	CF/JG		
Oct 3	Harvest	Sue Kirby KS1 MB –ks2	6JD	
Oct 10		Road safety CF / JG	11MC	
Oct 17	Diwali - Hindu	SEAL RM / MB	8NS	
Nov 1	Bonfire safety	Photos – No assembly		
Nov 7	Remembrance- memories	SEAL CF / JG		
Nov 14		Sue Kirby KS2 RM – KS1	13 JG/EL	
Nov 21	Life caravan week- looking after myself.	CF / JG	9MB	
Nov 28	Advent	Electric safety RM / MB	12PP	
Dec 5	Nativity	SEAL CF/ JG		
Dec 12	Christmas traditions - giving	RM / MB		

Please sign against each week to certify that your class has taken part in a daily act of collective worship. This can be in class, Key stage or whole school assemblies.

Please note names of children withdrawn by parental request.

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*Assembly
and
Worship
Policy*



Headlands Primary School