



Collective worship

ECM: Enjoy & achieve, Make a positive contribution

At South Lee our collective worship is broadly Christian but is distinct from corporate worship within a faith group. There are occasions when other faiths are the focus during collective worship (for example festivals, holy days, etc.). All teachers and pupils are expected to attend.*

**Nursery pupils and staff do not generally attend assemblies but celebrate festivals as they occur throughout the year as a whole nursery group.*

The Purpose of Collective Worship:

- To contribute to a sense of unity and community for the school as a whole
- To promote spiritual, cultural and moral development

Aims of Collective Worship:

- To provide opportunity for an experience of worship
- To reflect on values and concerns of the school community and the community it serves
- To deepen and widen a child's emotional response
- To enable children to gain insights into ways in which people express themselves within their faith and to be sensitive to those different ways of responding

Objectives of Collective Worship:

To develop a sense of

- Awe, wonder and mystery
- Interdependence with the natural world
- Pattern, sequence and order
- Self-worth and value of others

To develop an awareness:

- That life involves choices of belief/attitude/behaviour/relationships
- That there are issues of meaning, purpose and value in life

At South Lee all assemblies/collective worship are based on the principles that they should, wherever possible, be:

- Inclusive
- Educational
- Spiritual

and contribute to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of children. They include worship and/or Christian worship and are seen as special times where children can feel secure and relaxed and share with others to foster a feeling of community.

Assemblies generally last for a period of 10–15 minutes. 'Special' assemblies may be allowed to take a little longer.

Planning:

Assemblies are planned to follow themes that promote spiritual, cultural and moral development. They include examples from various religious cultures. These themes are often linked to:

- Religious events
- Special days
- Special events in the life of the school

and are linked to the Calendar of Religious Festivals for the year.

In school there is much to say thank you for, much to praise, much to hope for and to request, and we will place these as high priorities.

Assemblies:

- Meetings are arranged to develop a sense of occasion
- Children are expected to enter and leave quietly
- While the children are in the hall they sit in classes on the floor. Years 7 & 8 sit on benches and chairs.
- Music is played at the start and end of the assembly from a variety of sources.
- A hymn or appropriate song is sung.
- Parents and members of the local community are sometimes invited to assemblies and occasionally visiting speakers are invited. The school also has links with the local church and its minister and his assistant are also regularly invited to take assemblies.

With the Head's agreement, parents have the right to withdraw their child from acts of worship.

Should a child be withdrawn from assemblies, arrangements would be made to provide him/her with appropriate class work, which would be supervised by a member of staff.

Principles of Assembly/Collective Worship:

Assemblies should be inclusive:

- Pupil centred
- They should acknowledge diversity
- Involve pupils from time to time as active participants
- They should match the needs of pupils
- They should foster a sense of community

Assemblies should be educational. They should:

- Be learning experiences
- Related to pupils' own experiences
- Sometimes relate to other curriculum activities
- Provide the school with opportunities to reflect on the education it provides
- Have a purpose and celebrate educational achievements
- Be consistent with the aims of the school

Assemblies should be spiritual:

- Time to be still and reflect
- They should include a variety of words, music and images
- They should provide opportunities for children to take part in a variety of spiritual opportunities
- Provide an opportunity for children to take part in worship