



*Burscough Priory
Science College*

***COLLECTIVE WORSHIP
POLICY***

PRINCIPLES

Burscough Priory Science College believes that collective worship both supports and strengthens what we aim to do in every aspect of school life. Our caring ethos, and the value which we place on the development of the whole child; spiritually, morally, socially, culturally and intellectually is reflected in our worship. We value this special time in the school day for the space it gives children to develop a reflective approach to life and the ability to express their reflections in traditionally religious ways or any other appropriate manner.

It is legal requirements that all registered school age pupils take part in an act of worship each day. These acts of worship must be “wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian Character” for the majority of the time. They must also be “appropriate, having regard to the ages, aptitudes and family backgrounds of the pupils”.

Families who send their children to this school are in the main ‘nominally’ Christian, but we do have some children from practising Christian families. In addition there are children who are from religions other than Christianity and some from non-religious backgrounds. We recognise that in asking our children to worship we have to consider the background that our children come from and it is therefore not the practice of this school to preach to or convert the children. The faith background of both the staff and the child’s family is respected at all times.

AIMS

Through our collective worship we aim to provide a caring and supportive environment for children to:

- Become increasingly aware of themselves as individuals and groups within the school and wider community
- Grow in understanding of the feelings of the other people in every day situations and beliefs
- Explore the language which people use to express their feelings
- Deepen their sense of wonder about the world around them
- Grow in confidence when making a presentation to the group or whole school
- Respond freely to religious and/or spiritual stimulus
- Acknowledge diversity and affirm each person’s life stance, whether it be religious or not

PRACTICE

At Burscough Priory Science College we combine our acts of worship with assembly, helping to ensure that worship takes place within a broad educational framework. There is one assembly each week for every pupil in the school. In addition form tutors lead tutor groups through readings and reflections during tutor time on the four remaining tutor times.

The headteacher or other senior staff lead the whole school worship each week, whilst Heads of Year and / or Form Tutors may lead the Year Group assemblies each week. Pupils are encouraged to take an active part in both planning and leadership at certain times of the year. Assemblies are sometimes discussed at School Council meetings and they are invited to submit ideas and get other children involved.

The school year has been divided into weekly themes, which encompass religious festivals, known national or international events, and aspects taken from the school calendar. Staff leading worship can then plan around the themes and a development of ideas can build up.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- The headteacher is responsible (under the School Standards and Framework Act 1998) for arranging the daily collective worship after consulting with the governing body.
- The assistant headteacher is responsible for planning the calendar of themes and “Thought for the Day” activities on a termly basis. This is discussed by the Pastoral Leadership Group, which also provides an opportunity for Heads of Year to give feedback from Year Teams about assemblies.
- All Form Tutors follow the set programme in tutor time.
- All Teaching Staff are required to attend assemblies unless they have formally withdrawn from them by putting their request in writing and meeting with the headteacher.
- Parents of a pupil have a right to withdraw their children from collective worship. If a parent asks for their child to be wholly or partly excused from attending collective worship at the school the school must comply unless the request is withdrawn. Any parent who wishes to exercise this right should consult the headteacher.
- The Education and Inspection Act 2006 makes provision for pupils in post-16 education to exercise the right to withdraw themselves from the daily act of collective worship, but not from assembly.
- The deputy headteacher is responsible for ensuring that parents are reminded on an annual basis of the content of this policy via the school website.

DISSEMINATION:

This policy is shared with all staff through the staff handbook. Parents are advised of the policy on an annual basis via school website.

MONITORING AND REVIEW

The Curriculum and Students Sub-Committee review this policy on an annual basis. Compliance with “xxx” is monitored by Heads of year on a termly basis and the programme is reviewed every term through SLT and PLG.