

THE ST. CHRISTOPHER SCHOOL

Academy Trust - Special School

Mountdale Gardens, Leigh-on-Sea, Essex SS9 4AW

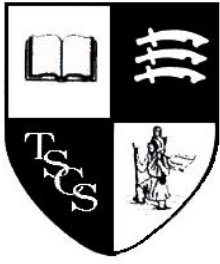
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Christopher's Cottage



A Residential Respite Care /
Sports Hall Facility

THE ST. CHRISTOPHER SCHOOL ACADEMY TRUST COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

First Written: May 2011
Revisions: December 2014

At The St. Christopher School, collective worship is set within the context of 'assemblies', which may include other features besides those required of collective worship.

Aims and Purpose

During collective worship we aim to:

- Provide an all-inclusive opportunity to build and reinforce community values
- Learn and understand both traditional and modern concepts of what it means to be British.
- Reflect on and understand elements of life which are of value and worth
- Provide a variety of opportunities for spiritual, moral, social and cultural development
- Provide opportunities for expressing shared experiences and interests and for celebrating special occasions together
- Provide opportunities in which pupils interact with other year groups, staff and on occasions the wider community
- Develop a community spirit, a common ethos and shared values

The School Community

Our school community is made up of people from many different religions and cultures. Assemblies are non-denominational and conducted in a manner which is sensitive to the faiths and beliefs of all members of the school community.

We are proud of the diversity of our school community and as such hold assemblies that reflect and celebrate the traditions of the main religions, particularly those that are represented in the school and the wider community.

Assemblies are regarded as an important part of the week and are organised and conducted accordingly.

Organisation of Collective Worship

Collective worship involves members of the school coming together and participating in an assembly or during class time (i.e. after lunch or at the end of the day) as appropriate to the age and ability of each class. Assemblies involve all of the pupils in the school and may be organised in whole school or separate key stage format, with their times varying accordingly.

Our assemblies reflect the achievements and learning of the children. We encourage children to participate each week, during which pupils celebrate their successes with others.

Assemblies provide an opportunity to reward children for their achievements both in and out of school and celebrate them together. They also play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school - that all children and their achievements are valued.

Assemblies are normally conducted by members of teaching staff, but are sometimes led by visitors to the school.

SMSC

As well as embedding spiritual, moral, social and cultural development within PSHCE and Citizenship, assemblies in particular are used to develop these aspects of our pupils.

Spiritual

Explore beliefs and experience; respect faiths, feelings and values; enjoy learning about oneself, others and the surrounding world; use imagination and creativity; reflect.

Moral

Recognise right and wrong; respect the law; understand consequences; investigate moral and ethical issues; offer reasoned views.

Social

Investigate and moral issues; appreciate diverse viewpoints; participate, volunteer and cooperate; resolve conflict; engage with the fundamental values of British democracy.

Cultural

Appreciate cultural influences; appreciate the role of Britain's parliamentary system; participate in culture opportunities; understand, accept, respect and celebrate diversity.

Right of Withdrawal from Collective Worship

Every effort is made to show sensitivity towards personal faiths and to include all pupils and staff in collective worship. For example when using a prayer from a particular faith, this is introduced with sensitivity and pupils are not required to say or affirm prayers which they do not believe.

There may be parts of an assembly, for example when a Christian hymn is sung, in which a pupil does not wish to participate. It is perfectly acceptable to withdraw from a part of the assembly by not participating.

Parents may make a request for their child to be wholly or partly excused from attendance at religious worship at school.

Monitoring and Review

It is the role of the Governing Body to monitor and review the policy and practice of collective worship in the school.

Adopted by the Pupil/Curriculum Committee on: 09/06/2011

To be reviewed: December 2016