



The Redway School Collective Worship Policy

Date of Original Policy:	September 2009
Last Review Date:	September 2018
Next Review Date:	September 2020
Member of Staff Responsible:	Ruth Sylvester / Ruth Jay

Rationale

At The Redway School pupils will be given the opportunity to join in an act of collective worship every week with a whole school gathering or departmental group. On other days there will be opportunities for reflection, celebration, thanksgiving or quiet class groups. At the end of each school day each class experiences 'review and reflect' time where the pupils share their thoughts and days experiences.

At The Redway School the pupils will gather together for an assembly, which will include an act of worship within it.

On these occasions the school will assemble as a community, which will include time to consider and celebrate aspects of the spiritual dimension of life, reflecting the varied beliefs and experiences of the pupils and teachers. There may be some personal space to be quiet, to think and to reflect.

Worship at The Redway School will reflect something special taking into account the work we embrace with our pupils in developing their social, emotional, spiritual and cultural well-being. The pupils will be supported to engage in this reflecting their level of understanding.

There is a theme for each week of the school year for assembly groups to follow and is accompanied by music or other performing arts and led by an adult, supported by the school community where all pupils are encouraged to participate. There will be varying degrees of explicit or implicit reference to Christianity or any of the other main faiths. The diversity

of religious belief and practice amongst the pupils at The Redway School will be represented in the act of collective worship.

Aims

- For all pupils to celebrate that which is of worth.
- For all pupils to have a time for sharing feelings.
- For all pupils to be able to celebrate diversity but within a context that gives a sense of shared values.
- To enable our pupils to come together for a time of quiet inner reflection.

Legal Requirement

Every pupil in a special school should attend collective worship (unless withdrawn by their parents or carers) so far as it is practicable

(1988 Education Reform Act, School Collective Worship)

Parents and Carers:

(See the extract from the 1988 Act - above)

Parents will be advised when special assemblies take place at The Redway School and receive an invitation to attend through the Friday Letter.

Themes are drawn up for each week of the school year. Wherever possible they have been linked with religious festivals and observance days. Sometimes an additional observance date has been provided.

Expectations for the Assembly

The member of staff taking the assembly should be the first one there and have music playing and preparations made ready for the pupils to arrive. They will be supported by members of the Leadership Team, our signing specialist and also the school band.

Staff bringing the pupils should ensure that they are calm and quiet as they reach the doors to the assembly venue. The pupils should enter and sit down quietly with their class group.

Staff are expected to model good listening behaviour.

Pupils will be expected to participate appropriately in assemblies. Staff should encourage this, through the assemblies they prepare and in their own responses.

Pupils will be encouraged to join in with the activities and also with singing. Where possible words will be displayed and staff are encouraged to support this with signing the key words.

The member of staff leading the assembly will ensure that guidance is given for the pupils to leave in an orderly manner.