



Collective Worship at Waterfield

Pupils at Waterfield engage in the daily practice of *Collective Worship*.

Assemblies

Assemblies occur throughout the fortnightly timetable, usually occurring in the Hall (or outside in summer). Assemblies gather the whole school (or phases) together to offer a time to build a sense of community, cohesion and reflection.

Waterfield will:

- celebrate and utilise key events in the calendar to theme assemblies
- use our *School Values*: kindness, respect, hard work
- reflect on British Values
- ensure that, where appropriate, religious links are made that reflect our community and global outlook as part of 'modern' Great Britain.

The purpose of this time is to give all children an understanding of the multi-cultural world we live in, reflecting and developing our thoughts as both individuals and as a community.

Larger Assemblies are usually conducted by Senior Leadership, whilst Phase or Year Group Assemblies allow for all teachers to lead our practice.

Celebration & Singing Assemblies

Linked to our *School Values*, the children celebrate their achievements and those of their peers. Singing is utilised by the school community to rejoice and enhance our music curriculum.

Reflection & Pastoral Time

Conducted as a Class or in Year Groups, the children will be led by their teacher in daily reflections that are themed around current events, *School Values*, reading of a story or other bespoke activities. Teachers will also address pastoral concerns and themes that are key to the development of positivity, good behaviour and citizenship for their Class/Year Group.

Waterfield is not a faith-based school. Our ethos is to draw on a multitude of faith-based ideas that correlate to our *School Values*. Whilst 'acts of worship' are offered in moments of prayer, many children may wish to use quiet reflection to think and reflect rather than worship a particular religion. This inclusive approach ensures that ALL children get a balanced approach to Collective Worship, upholding our belief in inclusivity of and respect for the major faiths of our country.

Parents have the right to withdraw children from acts of Collective Worship. Reasons do not need to be given, although a discussion with the Principal is required in order that Waterfield can support the decision made, ensuring that a shared understanding of assembly time is achieved and therefore an informed choice can be made. Parents have a responsibility to make the school aware of specific religious observations that (very rarely) may be compromised through Collective Worship.

Please note Waterfield will ensure political and cultural impartiality during Collective Worship and will ensure that British Society and Values are accurately reflected during our programme.

Statutory Direction of Collective Worship that supports Waterfield's Implementation

Collective worship in schools should aim to provide the opportunity for pupils to worship God, to consider spiritual and moral issues and to explore their own beliefs; to encourage participation and response, whether through active involvement in the presentation of worship or through listening to and joining in the worship offered; and to develop community spirit, promote a common ethos and shared values, and reinforce positive attitudes. Department for Education

Supporting Documentation:

[Collective worship in schools.pdf \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#)

[Religious education \(RE\) and collective worship in academies and free schools - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)