

<i>Policy adopted by Governors</i>	<i>June 2003</i>
<i>Policy to be reviewed every two years by Governors L&D Team (Website)</i>	<i>June 2023</i>
<i>Policy to be reviewed</i>	<i>June 2025</i>

BOWER GROVE SCHOOL
POLICY STATEMENT FOR COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

In keeping with advice from the Kent Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) as outlined in “Shaping the Spirit”, February 2009, Bower Grove School is committed to providing a daily Act of Collective Worship either in the form of assemblies led by staff or visitors, or within individual classrooms. In addition to this, special celebrations are also held at Harvest, Christmas and Easter, either in the school hall or at the local Church. As far as is practicable, all registered pupils will attend Acts of Collective Worship, unless a written request for withdrawal is received from parents / guardians in which case special arrangements would be made. Most of the assemblies will be of a mainly Christian character and will take account of ages, aptitude and family background.

By using the seven underlying themes suggested in the Kent Agreed Syllabus (Celebration, Relationships, Communication, Specialness, Community, Values and Journey), it is possible for the broad traditions of Christian belief to be interpreted and to provide opportunities for the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of all the pupils. Themes for the week enhance our assembly themes. Pupils benefit from (TOTF) Theme of The Fortnight to support the seven underlying themes. This is delivered in classrooms to promote open and honest dialogue amongst pupils and staff based on diverse and ethical topics.

The aims of collective worship at this school are based on guidance provided from QCA, ASK and Kent Sacre. The recommendation from the new agreed Kent syllabus (2017-2022) is that making links between the themes of RE and assemblies is good practice. With this in mind multi-cultural celebrations are included in the weekly whole class assemblies. We aim to provide a balanced and broadly-based curriculum that promotes opportunities for pupils to:

- Worship God
- Reflect on values that are of a broadly Christian nature and on their own beliefs
- Consider spiritual and moral values
- Explore and share their own beliefs
- Encourage participation and response whether through active involvement in the presentation of worship or through listening to, and joining in, the worship offered
- Develop community spirit
- Promote a common ethos and shared values
- Reinforce positive attitudes
- Prepare for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life
- Develop community cohesion
- Promote fundamental British values
- Promote an awareness of different religions
- Encourages open and educational conversations

The current pattern for collective worship during the school week is: -

Monday	KS3/4	Key Stage assembly
Tuesday	KS	Key Stage assembly
Wednesday	KS1/3/4	Assembly
Thursday	KS3/4	Key Stage assembly
Friday	9.10	Whole School Assembly

The themes for each week of collective worship are set out in an annual plan as suggested by Kent SACRE Guidance. All members of the teaching staff are responsible for planning and delivering the Whole School Act of Worship on a Friday on a rota basis. The Family Trust, local Church leaders, Psarms and other local organisations also plan and deliver whole school worship on a Friday. The school invites local clergy to contribute to special services to celebrate Christmas, Easter and Harvest and links with St Andrew's Church provide opportunities for visits and special services.

The Assembly co-ordinator is available to advise and assist staff with planning assemblies and to organise the music at the start and end of each Act of Worship. All assemblies offer an act of singing with pupils and staff encouraged to take part.

Additional guidance has been taken from:

- QCA Guidance on Spiritual Development (2009)
- Promoting and Evaluation of Pupils' Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development (Ofsted 2003)
- Every Child Matters
- Gathering Together: Policy and Practise for Collective Worship (ASK and Kent SACRE 2008)
- RE Act! A creative vision for religious education (ASK and Kent SACRE Revised Edition 2012).