

CLIFFORD CHURCH OF ENGLAND
INFANT SCHOOL

POLICY STATEMENT FOR ASSEMBLY

To be Reviewed: June 2016

Reviewed by: S. Preston

School assembly provides a unique opportunity to re-affirm the school's values, to strive for a sense of belonging and to build up a sense of the individual and their relationship with the community, which is based on trust and acceptance.

Assembly can underpin the school ethos by:-

- a) fostering a sense of fellowship
- b) enabling the sharing of emotions
- c) celebrating the beauty of life and living
- d) providing moments of awe and wonder
- e) encouraging high standards of expectation and achievement
- f) creating an atmosphere where pupils have opportunities for silent reflection,
repose, inner reflection and active participation.

The Role of Story

"Narrative has been described as a primary act of mind. Children construct the world through story. It is the teacher's role to recognise this and encourage it..."

Professor Brian Cox (orig. National Curriculum English Orders)

Through story, children:-

- a) develop listening skills
- b) improve and increase vocabulary
- c) improve written and oral work
- d) increase sensitivity
- e) are assisted to come to terms with real life situations and are made aware of their own and others' cultural heritage
- f) are presented with valuable shared experiences

Assemblies follow a varied pattern but usually a week will include Birthday Assembly, Family Assembly, which all parents are welcome to attend and which is a celebration of the week's work and an assembly led by St. Andrew's Psalter Lane Church. We also go to church for assemblies every term and have a service to celebrate Christmas, Easter and the end of term. In addition we perform a nativity in church.

We welcome visitors, including representatives from other faiths, and have assemblies led by other local Church and charitable groups and others. We try to make links between assemblies and class work. Every Friday afternoon, there is a short act of worship for all the children and staff to end the week in a calm, reflective way.