

# Whole School Philosophy Plan and Syllabus

July 2018

## Introduction

This plan relates to weekly school themes, assembly and philosophy class.

## Themes

There is an ethos-based theme for the whole school for every week of the year.

There are 30 themes - a few are repeated in the year.

Themes are repeated every year.

Themes are key messages for the school community

The list of themes is contained in Appendix 1.

## Content

The content derives from the key values: unity/universality, attention and resilience. These values are reflected in the 5 school rules:

Take care of everyone including yourself

Follow instructions immediately

Give attention and participate fully

Speak truthfully and beautifully

Take care of everything

Each school rule is considered for a week at least once a year.

## Assemblies

Assemblies during the week are directly related to the theme, as are philosophy classes.

There are two assemblies, one for younger children (J1 to 1C), and one for older children (2C-6C). The lower assembly runs 5 times a week and the upper one 4 times (3 times for 5&6C).

Assemblies comprise a pause, prayer, singing, story, discussion and end with another pause.

## Pausing

This is the main way we rest our minds and hearts during the day. We stop in between all activities. i.e. many times a day. For a moment there is nothing to do and nowhere to go. How the previous activity has gone is given up. No attention is given to the upcoming activity. It is time to rest. Then we get on with it!

## 'Prayers'

5 prayers are said in assembly by all over the course of the year. Prayers are universal; though they may come from a particular religious tradition they are applicable to all and none.

The prayers are

Autumn

All be happy

Send Thy Peace

Spring

That is Perfect  
May I be a guard  
Summer  
Lord, make me an instrument of thy peace

During their time in JSS, children learn them all off by heart.  
The words of the prayers are in Appendix 2.

### Story and Discussion

The stories are directly related to the weekly theme.  
The aim is to engage children so that they work with the theme of the week outside of assembly. E.g. If the weekly theme is Gratitude, we want children to try/practice/experiment with Gratitude and see what effect it has on them. Do they feel differently? The same applies to all the other themes.

### Assembly Singing

Songs are a mixture of spiritual and secular. Most are rounds. A sample is contained in Appendix 3.

### Philosophy Classes Methodologies

Story, questions and discussion, drawing, learning off assembly wishes are the main ones. Stories are drawn from all traditions and support the weekly theme.

### Rest and Meditation

Children and teachers pause before and at the end of all activities. The value of this is promoted continuously. Transcendental meditation is offered to children in 5th Class. There is no pressure to take it up. (About half do. 2018)

### Appendices

#### Appendix 1 : Themes

Taking care of everyone; don't offer rubbish; respect
Good manners are good
Following instructions immediately
Speaking beautifully/kindly
Life happens in the present, not in a dream
Everything belongs to God
Play <i>fully</i> ; it's how you play not the result
Teams work; play your part; Do it together; many hands make work easy, team
Be grateful, say thank you, get the gratitude attitude
Do it for everyone, not just yourself

Speaking truthfully
Serving; give what is needed
Just do it
Attention is the key; what would you like to be really good at?
Attention needs stillness
Everything is made of God; God is in everything
Be good example; walk the talk; lead the way
Do it now; today is the greatest day ever; no worries
Be humble. Don't boast
Try & keep trying.
Speak usefully
Be brave.
Believe in yourself; you can do it
To play you have to follow the rules
Blessing
Move harmoniously
Give your best; Let your light shine; use your talents; give it your all
Enjoy real rest: pause
Stay calm, chilax
Speak timely
Be generous; when you give you receive

## Appendix 2 : Prayers/Wishes

### **All be happy**

All be without disease

All creatures have well being

And none be in misery of any sort

**That is perfect.** This is perfect

Perfect comes from perfect

Take perfect from perfect, the remainder is perfect

MAY peace and peace and peace be everywhere

**Send Thy peace**, O Lord, that is perfect and everlasting, that our souls may radiate peace.

Send Thy peace, O Lord, that we may think, act, and speak harmoniously.

Send Thy peace, O Lord, that we may be contented and thankful for Thy bountiful gifts.

Send Thy peace, O Lord, that amidst our worldly strife we may enjoy Thy bliss.

Send Thy peace, O Lord, that we may endure all, tolerate all in the thought of thy grace and mercy.

Send Thy peace, O Lord, that our lives may become a divine vision, and in Thy light all darkness may vanish.

Send Thy peace, O Lord, our Father and Mother, that we Thy children on earth may all unite in one family.

**May I be a guard** for those who need protection

A guide for those on the path

A boat, a raft, a bridge for those who wish to cross the flood

May I be a lamp in the darkness

A resting place for the weary

A healing medicine for all who are sick

A vase of plenty, a tree of miracles

And for the boundless multitudes of living beings

May I bring sustenance and awakening

Enduring like the earth and sky

Until all beings are freed from sorrow

And all are awakened.

**Lord, make me an instrument of your peace:**

where there is hatred, let me sow love;

where there is injury, pardon;

where there is doubt, faith;

where there is despair, hope;

where there is darkness, light;

where there is sadness, joy.

O divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek

to be consoled as to console,

to be understood as to understand,

to be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive,

it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,

and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

### Appendix 3 : Songs

Alleluia, Amen
The Sharing Song (Raffi)
He's got the whole world in his hands
Come come ye sons of art
I can see clearly now
Oh, how lovely is the evening
La ti doh ti doh ti la
By The Waters of Babylon
Bella mama
Make new friends, but keep the old
Laudate dominum
Deus meus advua me
Kumbaya, my Lord
Viva la musica
Soar like an eagle
Michael, row the boat ashore
Amazing grace
Deep in my heart (Raffi)
Praise Him from whom all blessings flow
This little light of mine
Deep & Wide
Morning has broken