

Collective Worship & Assemblies Policy

Review Period: 5 yearly – Summer Term

Review By: Leadership Group & C&C

Contents:

Collective Worship and Assembly

Whole School Assembly / Collective Worship

Assembly Days

ASSEMBLIES POLICY

Collective Worship and Assembly

These are not necessarily the same.

An **Assembly** is a gathering to acknowledge and celebrate the shared values, aspirations, and standards of the School community. It may for example be disciplinary or congratulatory. It is not necessarily an act of worship and can therefore be undertaken and led by all.

Collective worship may be part or all of an assembly. It is a religious occasion which will encourage the spiritual, moral and cultural development of pupils and will give them an opportunity to reflect upon their own experience, to explore questions, and to respond to ultimate reality.

“Broadly Christian”

The term “broadly Christian” was not used in the 1944 Act but by the Education Reform Act (ERA) (1988). Essentially, when referring to gatherings for Assembly/Collective worship the DfE emphasises a degree of flexibility. The main elements, being wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character, may include some of the following:

- elements which reflect the broad traditions of Christian belief;
- refer to the special status of the person of Jesus,
- must not be distinctive of any particular Christian denomination,
- must be such that pupils of non-Christian background can take part without compromising their integrity,
- may contain some non-Christian elements, including those common to Christianity and other religions;
- must be appropriate to the family backgrounds, ages, and aptitudes of the pupils concerned.

WHOLE SCHOOL ASSEMBLY / COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

All tutors will be expected to lead assembly/collective worship. Throughout the year pupils in assembly will receive many messages which have an important effect on:

- behaviour,
- relationships,
- discipline,
- values and the
- moral and spiritual ethos of the school.

For staff who may not hold a religious belief, they will no doubt approach their assembly theme as an acknowledgement or celebration of shared values and morals, etc. rather than an act of collective worship (see overleaf).

Addressing the whole school can be daunting and it is worthwhile remembering that many pupils enjoy taking part in assemblies and also enjoy seeing their friends take part and are very supportive of them.

Themes for assembly/collective worship will be on the notice board at the beginning of the school year with staff allocated to lead them.

The term “collective” worship (from the 1944 Act) is intended to distinguish school worship from the voluntary worship characteristic of a united body of believers. It implies that they are gathered together, but are not necessarily of one mind.

Collective worship will therefore allow pupils, who may or may not have or who share a religious faith, to respond individually or differently, and not necessarily in the way that a united body of believers respond. It will be collective but not corporate.

It will thus present a stimulus, and offer time and opportunity for pupils to think, reflect, respond, or pray individually. Some will take the opportunity and some will not: the act should, however, create an atmosphere in which it is possible for pupils to respond in worship.

Assembly

- Each House will attend assembly on one day per week.
- The rota may vary dependent upon the time of year and school/external exam events.
- Pupils and staff are expected to attend assembly
- On assembly days pupils should line up on the playground in registration order for assembly.
- Pupils will sit in form groups in registration order with their form tutor.
- Outdoor coats should not be worn.
- Registers are taken on the playground before assembly commences
- Pupils are expected to be quiet and attentive.