

COLLECTIVE ACT OF WORSHIP

As the school role has grown, it has become impossible to accommodate all pupils in the school hall except in exceptional circumstances. Assemblies therefore take place on a rota basis. When students are not in assembly they are in their form groups for the 15-minute period where they undertake a range of activities including follow-up discussions of assembly themes, private reading, citizenship activities, mentoring and target setting, etc. Every effort is made by tutors to include and address SMSC issues.

All pupils are required to attend assembly and to take part regularly in the act of collective worship, except where parents exercise their right of withdrawal.

The Definition of School Worship Adopted by the School

Worship is regarded as a collective act or opportunity to think about and relate to God, and to consider and reflect on how belief and faith in God may affect our lives.

Agreed Aims of Collective Worship

- To contribute to the personal development of the individual.
- To enhance spiritual and moral development.
- To encourage individuals to explore and question their own beliefs and to consider the beliefs and feelings of others.
- To build a community identity through which individuals feel valued.
- To offer the opportunity for celebration and reflection.
- To offer consideration of issues which are important in a moral and religious context to the ethos of this school and the wider community.
- Those leading School Worship acknowledge the following distinctions between School Worship and in the Faith Community: Worship in school is collective and cannot assume belief, Worship in the Faith Community is corporate, assumes belief in a divine being.
- School Worship will offer the opportunity for: celebration and praise, sorrow, appreciating the value of forgiveness, feeling thankful, wishing and hoping, periods of stillness and/or prayer, sharing ideas common to many believers and a sharing of gifts and talents.

The Organisation of Collective Worship

Assembly will usually last about fifteen minutes. The assembly/act of collective worship will vary in length. They are delivered by members of the Leadership Team, Heads of Year and guests.

Assembly/collective worship is organised according to the following pattern:

Tuesday to Thursday – a rota of Year 7, Year 8/9, Year 10/11 assemblies.

Friday – a rota of form assemblies

Arrangements for the Supervision of Pupils Exercising the Right of Withdrawal

Few parents elect to withdraw their children from collective worship. Pupils who are withdrawn are required to gather in the dining hall adjacent to the assembly hall and to join the assembly after the act of collective worship to hear notices, etc. Duty staff will supervise such pupils.

The Content and Planning of School Worship

Most acts of worship will be of a broadly Christian nature, the emphasis of which will have regard for the Christian/church calendar and so acknowledge festivals and particular occasions, and thus ensure variety and relevance.

In broad terms emphasis will be on: Christian beliefs and values

World faiths

Moral issues

Celebration of pupils' achievements

A variety of methods will be used to conduct collective worship. It is agreed that collective worship may include some of the following:

Music

Exposition of an idea using a variety of methods which engage the interest of pupils

Stories

Poems
Pupil Presentations
Visitors

A Collective Act of Worship should include:

The consideration of concepts that are of a broadly Christian nature. In all the planned emphases including those covering major faiths and the celebration of achievement, it is assumed that concepts which are of a broadly Christian nature will be appropriately covered.

A time of guided reflection which may include the reading of prayers/prose/poetry and listening to music. It is not assumed that all children will participate in prayer and it is understood that this is a time for personal reflection which may take a variety of forms according to the belief of the individual.

The Contribution of Collective Worship to the Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development of Pupils

One of the key aims of collective worship is to offer pupils opportunities for spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

Spiritual Development is promoted by:

The celebration of special achievements
Guided reflection
Consideration of a variety of beliefs, values and feelings.
Appreciation of aspects of life which have special meaning and contribute to a sense of awe, wonder and creativity.

Moral Development is promoted by:

Consideration of moral codes found in school, in religions and in society
Consideration of relationships
Encouraging empathy by the consideration of moral issues from different perspectives.

Social Development is promoted by:

Coming together as a school community
Bring visitors into school from the community
Sharing values and matters of concern

Cultural Development is promoted by:

Using music, art, drama, story and artefacts from a range of cultural backgrounds
Exploring and celebrating aspects of religion and culture

Withdrawals

The right of withdrawal from collective worship for staff and pupils will be maintained.

Staff should ensure that they have informed the Headteacher of their decision to exercise their right of withdrawal from collective worship, but should note the requirement of them to assist in the supervision of pupils in assembly, as necessary.

Parents must inform the Headteacher in writing if they wish to withdraw their children from collective worship.

Co-ordination / Responsibilities

The responsibility for provision of the collective act of worship is that of the Head and Governors.

The Deputy Headteacher is responsible for planning annually in advance a rota of staff and tutor groups who are to lead assembly / collective worship.

Form tutors are responsible for the planning and co-ordination of their form assembly.

Record Keeping and Evaluation

An evaluation of provision will be made from time to time and this will influence the planning and delivery of future provision.

January 2007

Review January 2011