



## Collective Worship Policy

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Collective Worship takes place according to the legal requirements of the Educational Reform Act 1988.

### Organisation

There is a daily act of worship for all pupils organized in various groupings – whole school, year group and class group. For a typical week's organization see Appendix 1. At present these are held from 9:00 to 9:15 am, Monday to Friday, in the following venues:

- School hall: year group or lower school, led by Head of Year/KS or by one class
- Sports hall: upper school or lower school or whole school, led by Headteacher, Deputy Head, Assistant Head or invited speaker, for example local clergy.
- Classrooms: led by class teacher

### Style and character

Acts of worship are of a broadly Christian character, but increasingly including other faith positions and festivals where appropriate. They have regard for the age, aptitude and family background of the pupils, and to ensure this, the CW planning group have set out guidelines.

In each act of collective worship all pupils are engaged in an open ended reflective experience which enables them to feel included whatever their faith or values. Acts of worship do not assume a shared religious commitment and encourage pupils to have confidence in their own traditions and to value the traditions of others.

### Themes

The collective Worship planning group meets every term to discuss issues related to collective worship. The group also plan the themes for the next year's assembly calendar/rota. All meetings are open and advertised to all staff. Samples of meeting minutes are included in Appendix 1. The weekly themes concentrate largely on the inclusive beliefs, traditions and values which exemplify the ethos, mutuality and community of our school. They also provide opportunities for the spiritual and moral development of pupils to be enhanced. The themes are drawn from a wide variety of sources including personal suggestions from members of staff. As far as possible they are different each year. All of the themes allow for acts of collective worship to encourage pupils to:

- Celebrate the good
- Praise achievement
- Consider their place in the community
- Recognize their own worth and potential

### Assembly organisation

- Assembly time is 9:00 – 9:15am excepting end of term celebration assemblies which may take place at any time during the school day depending on timetabling.

- Notices are kept to a minimum and, if necessary, are given out at the beginning of the assembly in order to separate the act of collective worship from general administration.
- Music is played while pupils enter, to encourage reflection.
- Visiting speakers are invited as often as can be arranged in order to provide diversity of content and delivery. Local clergy deliver one assembly each half term, and usually explore the week's theme from a Christian perspective. We are currently striving to invite representatives of other faiths to join our list of regular contributors.
- Parents are always invited to the Friday performance of the class assemblies, which is performed to the classes own year group, after other year groups have seen the assembly in turn earlier that week. Parents are invited to remain behind for 10 minutes after the assembly to chat with their child, the form teacher and the Headteacher.
- Each half-term ends with a celebration assembly, held to honour and reward achievements both in and out of school, and led by the Headteacher.

### **Assembly guidelines for broadly Christian collective worship**

- A Christian act of collective worship will usually include one or more of the following:
  - A Bible story used with a clear purpose
  - Content from a Christian perspective preceded by "Christians believe that..."
  - Content featuring the life of a prominent Christian or groups of Christians
  - Use of a Christian prayer, preceded by "Close your eyes and reflect on the meaning of the words of this prayer a Christian might use..." (prayers from other faiths and traditions may use similar wording).
- The Senior Management Team will ensure that their assemblies are broadly Christian in character to ensure the right balance of Christian acts of worship.
- In order to avoid repetition of material through the week, the SMT will discuss the content of their planned assemblies.

### **Assembly guidelines for class assemblies**

- They must not be performances, but a thoughtful and educational sharing of ideas in an interesting way in order to help participants and audience alike to reflect upon a theme.
- They should be about 10-15 mins maximum, developing one or two points rather than attempting too many.
- Presentation is important. Pupils should be dressed correctly unless acting a part and need to be encouraged to speak clearly and audibly. They need to be aware that they are on show even when not actually performing.
- The class teacher should be actively involved with pupils in the assembly preparation, although other staff may assist with rehearsal. Teachers must give appropriate guidance to any pupils assisting with the writing of the assembly.
- There should be time for reflection during the assembly, taking the form of a prayer, poem, music to listen to, or a few seconds of silent thought.
- The assembly may be taken wholly by the pupils or staff may wish to take part themselves. It is important that all pupils are involved (eg pupils working backstage should be credited at the end).
- If a hymn is used, a fortnight's notice must be given to IC and words need to be provided by OHP.

- Help, content, information and guidance is available to help staff with ideas when planning assemblies. There is a drawer in the staffroom full of material, and there are a number of helpful websites. Please see KB or AW.
- At the end of the parents assembly, the hosting class should remain in their seats until the other classes have filed out, when the Headteacher will briefly address the parents. The class should then be encouraged to speak to their visitors and make them feel welcome. They should then leave the hall and not return, meaning that clothing and other belongings should be left elsewhere.
- It is a good idea to follow up the class assembly with pupils using discussion and evaluation of what they have learned, both as a class, and individually.

#### **Assembly guidelines for class collective worship**

- All CCW should be educational
- There is no need to spend 15/20 mins on the CCW – a thought for the day approach combined with silent reading is sufficient. Quality is more important than quantity.
- There is a list of ideas for CCW given each week on the diary sheet.
- Appropriate stimuli include a thought, prayer, piece of music, object, etc, after which there needs to be time for silent reflection, to encourage spiritual development.
- Other resources are available; please see KB or AW.