

## School Assemblies (Collective Worship)

### Rationale

School Assemblies have been undertaken as part of the school day at least since the introduction of the 1944 Education Act, traditionally at the beginning of the school day.

As the size of the school expanded the practical implications of fitting the whole school into one area have resulted in the current system of each year group meeting once a week and House groups twice a term.

The obvious advantages of a system that helps to highlight and support a corporate set of values and beliefs is acknowledged and it is towards the strengthening of students' moral, spiritual and religious development that our programme is directed.

### Principle Requirements

Daily act of collective worship for all pupils.

Act must be non-denominational.

It should be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character, though no distinction made to any Christian denomination.

The rights of teachers are safe guarded.

The rights of parents are safe guarded.

Responsibility lies with the Head Teacher in consultation with the School's Governors.

### Aims:

- To prepare an assembly programme that may not be offensive to or compromise the beliefs of those attending e.g. the sharing of common experiences in which all could participate and which, at the same time will reflect broad Christian values.
- To use 'worship' in its broadest sense
- To give expression to the values and concerns of the school community and to reinforce the school's values structure.
- To celebrate the contribution of individuals or groups to the life of the school.
- To recognise the celebration of festivals in various religious traditions in our community.
- To develop skills, attitudes and experiences related to the spiritual dimension of life.

The programme of School Worship will:

Be a special occasion.

Contain religious, not just moral issues.

Encourage student participation.

Be presented in an educational context first and foremost.

Be considered in the light of the needs and experiences of the pupils and lead them to an understanding of worship.

Bring students to 'the threshold of worship'.

## **FORMATS FOR ASSEMBLIES**

### **Whole Year**

- One Year Assembly each week in the morning and Form Assemblies on other days. Main Hall to be used. Drama Studio for Sixth Form.
- As above but joining two years together.
- House Assemblies twice a term.
- End of Term "Celebration of Success" assemblies.

### **Form Assemblies (Tutor Period)**

- Use of document 'Reflections for the Week'.
- Student bulletin read and reflection on "Thought for the Day".
- Involvement of students in organising Form Assemblies (in particular lower school students).

### **House Assemblies**

Each House will meet together during two weeks per term

Form Assemblies when not meeting as part of a year group or House Group.

## **REQUIREMENTS OF TEACHING STAFF**

No member of staff will be required to administer or deliver a Religious assembly except at their own request.

All staff are expected to support the school's value structures and to conduct and/or deliver the prepared scheme according to the whole-school timetable. Staff will not be asked to lead traditional prayer but should ensure that a brief period is put aside in each form period for individual reflection.

This part of each form period should be treated as a special occasion with the full participation of the whole group and should fully reflect the aims as set out above.