

Date Adopted	Summer 2022
Review Date	Summer 2024



COLLECTIVE WORSHIP & ASSEMBLIES	Statutory
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1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The School Standards & Framework Act 1998 requires that all schools have to establish arrangements for a daily act of collective worship (broadly of a Christian character) for all registered students, including the Sixth Form.
- 1.2 A key aim of the school is '*to foster a sense of belonging in which students can experience and develop sound moral and personal values within a caring and supportive atmosphere*'. The Governors feel it essential that Assemblies are perceived as honest and worthwhile and recognise that worship requires conscious belief and participation.

2. THE SCHOOL'S RESPONSE TO COLLECTIVE WORSHIP REQUIREMENTS

Present Arrangements:

2.1 Years 7 - 11

Weekly assemblies led by the Head, Deputy Heads, Senior Staff, Heads of House, Students and Visitors

2.2 Years 12 - 13

Weekly assemblies led by Sixth Form Team take place. In each fortnight there is an assembly which is a '*business*' assembly led by the Head of Sixth Form and a traditional assembly which is a moral one reflecting Christian beliefs/responses. It is led by the Head, Deputy Heads, Head of Sixth Form, other Senior Staff, Sixth Form Year Heads, Students, Visitors.

The school meets the legal requirements except that whole school assemblies are not daily and the aspects details in 3 below would not always constitute 'worship', but would constitute 'collective worship'.

3. ASSEMBLIES

The themes of assemblies are predominantly moral ones reflecting Christian beliefs.

3.1 The assemblies aim to reflect and support the school's aims:

- To promote the highest standards of personal achievement and learning within a structured self-disciplined environment
- To foster a sense of belonging/community in which students can experience and develop sound moral and personal values within a caring and supportive atmosphere
- To provide a broad, balanced and challenging curriculum for every individual child and promote an enthusiasm for lifelong learning
- To work in partnership with parents to forge good working links with the local and wider community and with employers

In keeping with these aims, the assemblies programme aims to include:

- Transmitting values
- Giving a lead on moral issues
- Enabling students to share and celebrate achievements
- Enabling students to consider issues and to reflect on Christian beliefs/responses
- Fostering spiritual/cultural development
- Encouraging a theme of personal and social responsibilities
- Provision for staff, students and members of wider community to contribute to the life of the school
- Provision for reverence and reflection
- Providing students with '*something more than the obvious, something to consider and something to respond to*'
- Giving students the experience of responding to talks/performances in a large social group in a formal setting
- Exploring feelings and emotions

- Making visible the school's aims and leadership
 - Providing opportunities for students to hear from charitable organisations, including charities concerned with the Developing World
- 3.2 Principal aspects of the Christian Calendar (Easter, Christmas) are to be included in the School Assembly programme.
- 3.3 Local clergy and other members of the community are invited into Year assemblies to deliver assemblies at these times.
- 3.4 The school will invite the Gideons in annually to address all Year 7 students. A personal bible is available to take away if a child wishes to
- 3.5 Fortnightly House Assemblies are led by the respective Heads of House. The assemblies aim to:
- Engender House spirit
 - Enable students to share and celebrate achievement
 - Give a lead on moral issues
 - Give a weekly opportunity for notices/information
- 3.6 A period of silent reflection is held simultaneously across the school for 11.00am on Armistice Day, 11 November (when this falls on a weekday or on the closest weekday if it falls at the weekend).
- 3.7 Assemblies for the whole school together (or in half whole school assemblies to accommodate the right amount of students safely) are held three times a year in the Sports Hall - Celebration Assemblies.

4. STUDENTS' RIGHTS

- 4.1 Students have the right to worship based on their faith e.g. a student of Islamic faith have the right to carry out daily prayers if they wish/ask to do so.
- 4.2 School will provide a space for worship to be carried out in the above instances.
- 4.3 School will authorize absence on religious grounds, pending parental request e.g. to celebrate Eid

5. PARENTS' RIGHTS

- 5.1 Parents have the right to withdraw their children from collective worship on written application to the Headteacher.
- 5.2 The school will, if requested, make arrangements for affording a pupil to attend worship in accordance with the tenets of a particular denomination of days exclusively set apart for religious observance by the religious bodies to which his parent belongs (1988 Education Act S9(7)) and/or to receive religious education in accordance with such tenets outside school hours.

(These arrangements may include the provision of facilities for worship or education on the premises of the school, but the arrangements should not entail expenditure by the school of Local Education Authority.)

6. STAFF RIGHTS

- 6.1 Staff have the right not to attend religious assemblies or acts of collective worship.
- 6.2 Staff have the right to actively worship in the school, provided it is in line with working expectations and agreed by the Headteacher, in accordance with religious observance.

Date Policy Reviewed: November 2023

Neil Wilby

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Chair of Governors

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Headteacher