

St Katherine's School



Collective Worship/Assemblies Policy

Policy Number SKP A 004

Next Review: December 2023

Signed : Justin Humphreys Dated : 31.1.22
Headteacher

Signed: William Harding Dated : 31.1.22
Chair of Governors

1. **RATIONALE**

- 1.1 The school recognises the value and worth of assemblies for collective worship in that they provide rich opportunities for the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of all students, and prepare them for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life in modern Britain.
- 1.2 The school wishes to enhance and develop these opportunities in the belief that they make a significant contribution towards developing a sense of community and identity as well as promoting students' self-development, tolerance and respect for others.
- 1.3 The shared values promoted through the curriculum, will be reinforced through assemblies promoting a common ethos and community spirit.
- 1.4 Collective worship will be mindful of the fact that we are a multi-cultural, multi-faith school community.

2. **AIMS**

- 2.1 To ensure that, as far as possible, the school fulfils its obligations under government statute, within the constraints imposed upon us by the limitation of our accommodation and the willingness of staff to lead an act of worship.
- 2.2 To encourage positive, participating and inclusive attitudes towards collective worship amongst students and staff.
- 2.3 To ensure that collective worship is a valued and meaningful educational experience.
- 2.4 To provide a framework and structure for the delivery of assemblies for collective worship.

3. **PRINCIPLES AND GUIDELINES**

- 3.1 We recognise that worship is something that comes from within rather than something which happens because we are required to do it. We interpret worship in its broadest sense of reflecting upon, and celebrating, what is of worth within and beyond the school community. This reflects the legal requirement that worship should be of a "broadly Christian Character" although it is not limited by such legislation. Such assemblies may be spiritual and experiential without being explicitly religious. In that it addresses common human concerns and shared British values, our approach is inclusive rather than exclusive.
- 3.2 We will structure assemblies for collective worship throughout the year in a coherent and meaningful way. Broad themes will, over the course of a year, reflect the spiritual, moral, social and cultural areas of the curriculum. Although of a broadly Christian character, these themes will also, in places, reflect the present religions and cultural diversity within Britain and British values (democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect for and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs and for those without faith). We will involve speakers from the wider community to give religious/spiritual input on a regular basis, organised around key dates in the calendar.

3.3 Parents are entitled to withdraw their child from collective worship and should do so in writing stating the reason to the Headteacher.

3.4 **An Agreed Format**

3.4.1 In order for collective worship to be effective we have agreed upon the following general pattern or format of delivery:

- Announcements for the assembled year(s) including the acknowledgement and celebration of achievement.
- The assembly presentation by the member of staff assisted by students whenever possible.
- A time of quiet reflection.
- The assembly to end on a positive note.
- Ordered dismissal by Head of House.

3.5 **Staff Presence**

In order for assemblies to maintain status and importance for students tutors will normally be present with their tutor groups.

3.6 **Participation by Students**

The participation of students is to be encouraged and ways of achieving this to be explored. The Heads of House may wish to develop a rota for tutor groups to deliver assemblies over the year. Subject staff may wish students to demonstrate their work in a variety of ways. House Leaders are encouraged to take an active role in assemblies.

4. **MONITORING AND EVALUATION**

4.1 Heads of House /Senior Leadership Team

4.2 The Local Governing Body will review this Policy every 2 years.