

Collective Worship Policy (Collective Gathering)

Rationale

The school complies with current statutory requirements regarding Collective Worship. The school acknowledges that all parents have the right to withdraw their child from collective worship or RE lessons should they object to their delivery. Parents in these circumstances are expected to discuss their objections with the Head of Year.

Purpose

Assemblies and other acts of collective gathering contribute significantly to the delivery of aspects of the National Curriculum which enhance student's spiritual and cultural awareness – other elements contributing to this are delivery of 'Citizenship', 'British Values', 'Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural' development and certain aspects of the Citizenship and PSHCE course. These are all realms which students have an entitlement to experience throughout their education.

Guidelines

There are three fundamental principles underlying the provision of our acts of Collective Gatherings. These principles are broadly outlined below, and are:

- Inclusive in nature
- Broadly educational in content
- Specifically Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural in content

A collective gathering can take place from Monday to Friday. The time at which this takes place and the form of the collective gathering (whole school, house, year or tutor groupings) may vary from day to day. Within tutor time we have focus on 'Every Child Matters' issues which is introduced by the tutor and reinforced during assemblies.

Inclusive – this means that we want our gathering to:

- Recognise and celebrate the diversity of cultures, lifestyles and religions which exist in our multicultural society
- Have an atmosphere in which everyone feels valued and safe
- Be suitable for every child to attend unless withdrawn by his/her parents/guardians
- Focus on issues and experiences which are relevant to the students
- Include active participation by students and members of the local community – either in preparation or in performance

Educational – this means that we want our gatherings to:

- Reflect the aims of the school and foster a sense of shared values
- Be valuable learning experiences and as such, to be included in the schemes of work and curriculum planning
- To enhance, complement and extend the Tutor Programme
- To provide an opportunity to celebrate the academic, social, personal or sporting achievements of the students
- To provide an opportunity to learn how to behave in a large social gathering

Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural – this means that we want our gathering to:

provide a brief period of reflection from the busy life of school, when students will have time to pause for thought in an atmosphere of peace and quiet; provide the students with an opportunity to contemplate the personal dimension of their life through a variety of experiences and have a sense of occasion that separates them from the rest of the school day.

Title of Policy	Collective Worship Policy (Collective Gatherings)
Review Cycle	3 Years
Policy prepared by	SWS
Committee responsible	Learning & Achievement
Statutory/Discretionary/School	Statutory
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Date of review by committee	n/a
Date of next review by FGB	June 2019