

Woodfield School



Collective Worship Policy

2021-2022



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Woodfield School Policy on Collective Worship

Principle

Woodfield School believes that collective worship both supports and strengthens what we aim to do in every aspect of school life. Our caring ethos and the values we place on the development of the whole child; spiritually, morally, socially, culturally, and intellectually is reflected in our worship. We value this time in the school day for the space it gives to students to develop a reflective approach to life and the ability to express their reflections in traditionally religious ways or any other appropriate manner.

Assemblies are an important part of school life. They provide a means of bringing together the whole school community once a week. Key Stage 3 meet on a Monday period 5, Key stage 4 meet on a Tuesday period 5 and 6th form meet on a Thursday.

Purposes

Collective worship at Woodfield is intended to provide a caring and supportive environment for students to:

- Become increasingly aware of themselves, as individuals, and of others within the school and wider community
- Gain, and grow in, understanding of the feelings of others
- Gain knowledge, and explore the use of language that others use to express themselves
- Deepen their sense of wonder of the world in which we live
- Respond freely to religious and/or spiritual stimulus
- Acknowledge diversity and difference
- Promote co-operative and school values
- To provide opportunities for pupils to reflect upon the traditions and beliefs of Christianity and other religions.

Accordingly, the school will:

1. Adhere to the philosophy of the Brent Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education and the policy of the 1988 Education Reform Act on Collective Worship;
2. Involve a range of staff in presentation with their tutor groups or other groups e.g. school council.

3. Plan assemblies to include talks, readings, drama, song, prayers and meditations as appropriate to the theme and to the pupils in a visually stimulating way;
5. Keep a record of each assembly to enable the planning of a coherent programme of collective worship, and to be available to any interested persons.
6. Follow the theme of the assembly with a thought for the day in PSHE Citizenship on a daily basis

Roles and Responsibilities

- It is the overall responsibility of the Head Teacher to ensure acts of collective worship are effective, fit for purpose and conducted according to school policy
- It is the responsibility of the person conducting the assembly to ensure acts of collective worship and reflection are carried out and that the presentation is reflective of the assembly theme of the week. However, within the legal framework and theme suggestions, staff conducting collective worship are free to employ whatever format that is seen as appropriate. The use of music, drama, video, or visual aids may supplement the more traditional elements of talks, readings, hymns, and prayers. Imagination and careful preparation are essential if pupils are to broaden their horizons and be led to reflect on fundamental human issues.
- It is the responsibility of the form tutor, or staff member escorting a form group, to accompany and remain with the tutor group throughout collective worship to assist with supervision.
- It is the responsibility of the student to ensure that their behavior, when in assembly, is beyond respectful, considerate and beyond reproach.

Evaluation

1. At its regular meetings the planning group will reflect on previous collective worship, and make modifications accordingly.
2. Form Tutors and the leader of collective worship will monitor pupils' perceptions of assemblies and their participation in them through PSHE/ citizenship

Method of Implementation

Key Stage 3 Monday period 5 - Led by JOD

Key Stage 4 Friday period 1 – Led by SDE

Key Stage 5 Friday period 1 – Led by SDE

Special days and acts of remembrance

Seasonal events are marked by special acts of collective worship e.g. Christmas, Diwali, Eid, and Remembrance Day. Assemblies should recognise the importance of such events to the school and wider community, encouraging inclusion, cultural diversity and encouraging empathy. Imagination and careful preparation are essential if pupils are to broaden their horizons and be led to reflect on fundamental human issues.

Withdrawal from Assembly

All parents have the right to request that their child is withdrawn from assemblies, section 71 of the Schools Standards and Framework Act (1998). We at Woodfield recognise said right and arrangements for students whose parents have expressed the right of withdrawal from school collective worship is organised by the Head of Key Stage. We do however, have a strong tradition of being fully inclusive, and whilst we respect parental wishes, encourage discussion of concerns regarding collective worship to avoid students feeling excluded.

The Nature of Worship

Acts of worship reflect something special or separate from ordinary school activities. They are mainly of a Christian nature but all religions are considered over a period of time. We aim to provide the opportunity for the pupils to;
Worship God

- Consider moral issues
- Explore their own beliefs
- Be encouraged to participate and respond
- Develop a community spirit
- Share in the ethos and values of the school
- Reinforce positive attitudes to learning
- Be aided in spiritual, moral and cultural development
- Celebrate success both individual and collective.

Content of assemblies should...

- Help children to understand the moral codes and conventions by which individuals and society operate.
- Help children to make decisions for them when faced with moral questions
- Take advantage of contemporary events and significant festivals to raise meaning in life
- Provide some time for silent reflection when individuals can collectively focus on those forces/influences which lie outside themselves and which offer purpose and meaning to life.
- Celebrate successes and receive merit prizes

SMSC and British Values in Assemblies

In assemblies at Woodfield School staff and visitors support children in the development of their spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) understanding. Assemblies also provide an opportunity for staff and children to come together to celebrate each other's successes.

Throughout the year each of the four areas of learning in SMSC is explored in our whole school and Key Stage assemblies. Children are often asked to reflect on what they have heard in assembly in PSHE time.

Timetable of Themes

Term	SMSC Focus	Assembly topics include:
Autumn I	Moral learning	Forgiveness, Facing the consequences of our actions, Why do we need rules?
Autumn II	Cultural learning	Remembrance, Our multicultural world, Tolerance, Festivals and celebrations. Anti-Bullying A week is dedicated to anti – bullying to stress the importance of Woodfield being a telling school and to enable the young people to make a noise about bullying . All children and young people are given a safe space to discuss bullying and other issues that affect their lives, and are supported to report all forms of bullying;
Spring I	Spiritual learning	The beliefs of others, Respect, Tolerance, British Values.
Spring II		Awe and wonder, Imagination and creativity, Feelings and emotions.
Summer I	Cultural learning	Working together, Collaboration, Resolving conflict, What does community mean to you?
Summer II		Global Citizenship, Helping others, The environment, Our world.

Assemblies have a key focus of SMSC and British Values, which are disseminated across the whole school.