



Assemblies and Collective Worship Policy

The King's School
Cadhay Lane
Ottery-St-Mary
Devon
EX11 1RA

ASSEMBLIES AND COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

The requirements for collective worship are specified in the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 (SSFA), DfE (1994) 'Religious Education and Collective Worship' and DfE (2012) 'Religious education (RE) and collective worship in academies and free schools'.

Our Assemblies and Collective Worship Policy reflects the current legislation and statutory requirements. It seeks to ensure the requirements are met while operating within the constraints imposed by the physical limitations of the school buildings.

Structures and Themes

The act of collective worship will be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character; however, other faiths and cultures will be represented. Our assemblies should reflect the spirit of this aim of being inclusive, educational and broadly curriculum based and with a sense of occasion.

Monday assemblies in particular offer the opportunity to consider national and world events and the impact of individuals on the world. Assemblies are used as a vehicle to consider key points in the calendar such as Easter, Christmas, Holocaust Day, Remembrance Day and so on. The assembly themes should address social, moral spiritual and cultural issues.

There are many ways of increasing the variety of methods of presentation at assemblies e.g. video, music, drama, outside speakers, readings and other staff taking the lead. Assemblies can also be used for praising students through prizes, trophies, certificates, reports of successful endeavours and thanks for productions and shows.

When students are not attending a formal assembly they will be engaged in active tutorial work focussing on a range of social, moral, spiritual and cultural issues including a formalised character education programme.

Our assemblies will aim to:

- Enable pupils to consider spiritual and moral issues, as well as explore their own beliefs.
- Encourage participation and response via active involvement or through listening and participating.
- Provide pupils with the opportunity to plan, lead or contribute to discussions on key themes and topics, e.g. morality.
- Provide a peaceful environment to enable stillness and reflection.
- Help pupils to develop an awareness of their community and the spirit of helping others.
- Develop a spirit of community and an understanding of individuals with other beliefs.
- Acknowledge diversity and affirm each individual's life stance, whether religious or not.
- Promote a common ethos and shared values.
- Reinforce positive attitudes.

ASSEMBLY PATTERNS

Mondays

There will be a rolling programme of year group assemblies in the Canteen and Main Hall usually led by a member of SLT. Staff will be offered the opportunity to request to lead assemblies on relevant themes during the year. On

occasions there will be assemblies for more than one year group in the Main Hall. Students will come in quietly and sit in silence when waiting for the assembly to begin.

Tuesday to Friday

Each house will have a full house assembly every week and there will also be opportunities for smaller house groups such as Upper or Lower School to meet. The 6th Form will hold regular assemblies usually in individual year groups.

Students entering the Assembly

Staff without tutor groups should be in key positions i.e. foyer, back of hall, back of stairs, balcony to assist seeing the students enter in an appropriate manner. HOH and tutors should be in the Hall to see their House/tutor group enter unless they are mentoring.

Tutors should be seated or stand on both sides of the Hall for supervision. Students should sit down quietly to wait for the Assembly to begin.

Students leaving the Assembly

Staff should be on hand to supervise students leaving the assembly venue in an orderly manner.

All staff **linked with the group whose assembly it is** are expected to attend however, it is understood that there may be occasions when a member of staff is unable to attend an assembly.

End of Term Assemblies

At the end of each term there is a Final House Assembly which will celebrate that term's success in a wide variety of ways and will also focus on the ethos of the house. There will also be a face to face or virtual presentation where house results are announced and celebrated. The Headteacher will also have the opportunity to say goodbye to staff who are leaving.

To summarise –

Assemblies are an integral part of the student's week at school as:

- They offer an important opportunity to contribute to the ethos of the school.
- Time should be created in assemblies and tutorial periods for students to reflect upon ideas being explored, their responses to these ideas and consideration of their responses in the future.