



## COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

The Collective Worship Policy at Cannock Chase High School pays due regard to statutory requirements and has taken account of the guidance offered by Staffordshire Local Authority through its SACRE.

The Collective Worship Policy of Cannock Chase High School is consonant with the philosophy and aims of the school as expressed in the school prospectus.

### Definition of Collective Worship

Collective Worship is a time when the whole school, or groups within the school, meet together in order to consider and reflect on common concerns, issues and interests. It offers all students an opportunity to worship through engaging in relevant, meaningful experiences and provides opportunities for the development of the whole child: spiritually, morally, socially, culturally and intellectually. We believe that collective worship both supports and strengthens what we aim to do in every aspect of school life and reinforces our ethos and values. As a school, we use the term 'assembly' rather than 'collective worship'.

### Aims of Collective Worship/Assemblies

#### For the School:

Assemblies contribute significantly to the ethos of the school and it is our aim that it is a time when the school community can:

- share common aims and values;
- celebrate achievement and special times;
- explore together the world in which we live;
- develop a community spirit;
- promote Year group identity.

#### For the Students:

We also intend that assemblies contribute to the development of the student as a 'whole' person by providing opportunities to:

- reflect on collective and whole school values and ethos;
- consider spiritual and moral issues;
- explore their own beliefs and values;
- develop their own spirituality;
- reinforce positive attitudes;
- reflect on what it means to be human and part of a community.

## **The Management of Assemblies**

The responsibility for working out an assembly rota and the themes of the week lies with the Assistant Headteacher responsible for Pastoral. Parts, or all, of this responsibility may be delegated to an appropriate member of the pastoral team or Leadership Team.

Assemblies take place during the last 30 minutes of the school day, and are usually led by the Director of Year or a senior member of staff. There is the opportunity for students to be involved in the leading and delivering of assemblies, and this is actively encouraged. Visiting speakers are also invited to lead assemblies when appropriate. These include members of the local and wider community, for example, the Fire Service and Police as well as other agencies.

## **Planning Assemblies**

The content of all assemblies will be considered and planned carefully, to ensure relevance and suitability for the ages, aptitudes and backgrounds of all students. Themes of the week, particular items of interest and relevance, important messages and information, special occasions and events will all figure in the content of assemblies during the course of a year, being flexible to allow the inclusion of current and topical issues.

## **Assemblies: Content and Process**

The content and process must be sufficiently stimulating in order to evoke a response in the individual. This may not be visual, but opportunity must be given to express this response through reflection and interaction where appropriate.

Assemblies will not be 'acts of worship' in the traditional sense, although may on occasions conclude with a prayer, reflection or meditation. Students will be invited to listen to the prayer silently, in a sensitive way. Prayers should be phrased in a way which makes them inclusive and appropriate as a reflection on the theme of the assembly. Prayers will generally be at the beginning and end of term assemblies, and at Christmas and Easter assemblies.

Students should enter and leave an assembly in an orderly and efficient fashion, organised by the pastoral staff. At the beginning of an assembly they should be asked to stand, and then be greeted by the assembly leader or Director of Year (as appropriate).

## **Withdrawal**

Any parent who objects to their child attending an assembly may request that their child is withdrawn. Parents are encouraged to discuss this with the Headteacher. Any student who is withdrawn from assembly will be supervised during that time by a member of the school staff.

## **Dissemination**

This Policy is shared with all staff through the school website. Parents are advised of the policy on an annual basis via the school website.

## **Monitoring and Review**

The Governing Body will review this policy on an annual basis.

Compliance with the policy is monitored by Directors of Year and the Assistant Headteacher - Pastoral on a termly basis. The programme is reviewed every term through the Leadership Team.

Date of Review: September 2018