



# CANNOCK CHASE HIGH SCHOOL

A C H I E V E M E N T F O R A L L

## 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 Staffordshire Agreed Council for Religious Education (SACRE) [SACRE](#).

The Collective Worship Policy of Cannock Chase High School is consistent 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, irrespective of religious belief or non-belief, 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 Deputy Headteacher responsible for Personal Development in collaboration with the Directors of Year, DSL, Careers Advisor, PSHE lead teacher and other relevant staff. 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 each half term will also focus on a key school value (Responsibility, Teamwork, Integrity, Excellence Resilience). The school also has a key focus on Character Education which centers on developing the student as a whole, making them better citizens, developing skills and being the best that they can be in all that they do. British Values are also reinforced and reflected upon through assembly times.

## **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 students should be asked to stand and then be greeted by the assembly leader or Director of Year (as appropriate).

## Special Days and Acts of Remembrance

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

## Prayer Room

If students wish to do so, there is a specially allocated prayer room on site for them to engage in religious practices.

## Withdrawal

Any parent who objects to their child attending an assembly may request that their child is withdrawn - Section 71 of the Schools Standards and Framework Act (1998). Parents are encouraged to discuss this with the Deputy Headteacher. We do, however, have a strong tradition of being fully inclusive, and whilst we respect parental wishes, we encourage discussion of concerns regarding collective worship to avoid students feeling excluded. 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.

<b>Implementation date:</b>	January 2025
<b>Last review date:</b>	
<b>Next Review date:</b>	January 2026
<b>Statutory Policy:</b>	No