



# **ASSEMBLIES AND COLLECTIVE REFLECTION POLICY**

**Non-Statutory**

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## **The Meaning of Collective Worship**

Collective worship in schools differs from corporate worship of a faith community in that it is open to staff and pupils who are Christian, members of other religions, humanists, agnostics or atheists and are not collectively committed to a particular creed, liturgy or form of worship. Although "worship" is not defined in the legislation, the DFE gives guidance: "Worship must in some sense reflect something special or separate from ordinary school activities ... it should be concerned with reverence or veneration paid to a divine being or power." Circular 1/94

Reverence to a deity will be central to many people's definition of worship but the Hampshire LA guidelines point out that worship can have a much broader and inclusive meaning:

"... a growing ability to celebrate and reflect on things held to be of worth."

This wider definition makes space for those who do not believe in God and allows the integrity of pupils and staff to be respected. At Cams Hill School we wish to promote an honest and worthwhile approach to school worship which embraces all parts of the school community.

## **Objectives and Rationale**

At Cams Hill School it is a challenge to meet the requirement of a **daily** act of worship for each pupil as a whole school collective. We provide the opportunity for 10 minutes reflection in the form of DEAR (drop everything and read) in each period 5/tutor period. Once a week each and every year group has an assembly.

We want our pupils to be knowledgeable and to develop rational beliefs and value systems. We also want them to become good citizens, to understand the difference between right and wrong and to behave well throughout their lives.

The overwhelming majority of pupils at Cams Hill School have white British ethnic backgrounds. It is, therefore, important to emphasise religious and cultural diversity within society and to encourage pupils to appreciate and value it.

We do not believe that sufficient consensus of belief exists within our school community to allow for collective worship in the conventional sense; we aim instead to provide opportunities for daily reflection.

## **Organisation and Delivery**

We aim to facilitate opportunities for moral, ethical, religious and philosophical reflection. Lessons in all subjects provide such opportunities. However, assemblies and tutor periods are of particular importance.

Our assemblies:

- respect the integrity of all who attend;  
provide space and calm for personal reflection and an opportunity for pupil to make a free response arising from their own religious beliefs and other convictions;  
give expression to the ethos of the school and its shared values: Inspire, Nurture, Achieve, Excel, thus developing a sense of community;
- celebrate achievement, mark special occasions and acknowledge events in the wider world beyond school;
- respect the religious traditions of all people;
- contribute to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils;
- support and uphold British values.

Pupils attend a weekly assembly within their year group.

Pupils are accompanied in assembly by their tutor; assembly is led by Heads of Year, members of the Senior Prefect Team, a member of the Senior Leadership Team and/or visiting speakers. All pupils are encouraged and supported to take an active part in both planning and leading assemblies and collective reflection at certain times in the year. Pupil participation is encouraged because it supports the development of a range of skills, including teamwork, communication and planning.

Assemblies should run on time and there should be a quiet, formal atmosphere.

An Assembly Rota is drawn up at the beginning of each term by the Assistant Headteacher.

When not in assembly, pupils are in their tutor bases following a PDLC, (Personal Development Learning and Citizenship) planned curriculum. During the first 10 minutes of tutor time, pupils are engaged in DEAR time (Drop Everything and Read) and it is expected that this time is also used as an opportunity for personal reflection.

### **The Right of Withdrawal**

Parents may withdraw their children from Assembly by writing to the Headteacher and the Chair of Governors. Any pupil withdrawn from Assembly would read quietly in the I-centre.

Members of staff may withdraw from an Assembly on religious grounds after they have settled their tutor group. A member of staff will need to inform the Headteacher in advance in writing of their request to withdraw.

### **Visiting Speakers**

Guest speakers are a frequent and integral part of collective reflection at Cams Hill and, as such, should be treated with respect. It is the responsibility of the member of staff organising the visiting speaker to ensure the school's policy and procedures for visiting speakers is adhered to and that the relevant form is completed prior to the speaker's visit. It is the responsibility of the pupil to ensure that their behaviour, when in assembly, is respectful, considerate and beyond reproach.

### **Special Days and Acts of Remembrance**

Seasonal events are marked by special acts of collective worship, eg 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.

### **Dissemination**

The policy is shared with staff through the school resources area on the share drive. Parents are advised of school policies and have access to them upon request. In line with school policy, we endeavour to give all staff and pupils equal opportunities regardless of gender, race, ability, age, or social background.

### **Monitoring and Evaluation**

Members of the Senior Leadership Team monitor delivery of assembly activities on a termly basis. The effectiveness of the policy will be reviewed by the Senior Leadership Team every 3 years.

*Acknowledgements to Hampshire Inspectors for RE and Intercultural Education.*