

Assembly and Collective Worship Policy

at South Molton Community College

Principles

Assembly and collective worship focuses on the life of the school as a community and on the values and realities central to it. In line with the Education Reform Act (1988) it reflects the broad traditions of Christian belief without being totally or exclusively Christian.

Each week a theme is identified, which is used as the basis for each Assembly. It is also used as the topic for Form Assemblies on the other days to ensure that a daily act of collective worship is carried out across the College.

Shared Objectives

Assembly and collective worship are not synonymous activities, but some common aims can be identified. The following list gives some of the objectives for worship we have at South Molton Community College:

- To give pupils the opportunity to consider spiritual and moral issues and explore their beliefs.
- To develop a community spirit, promote a common ethos and shared values to encourage positive attitudes and mutual support.
- To allow pupils time for reflection and personal response.

Spiritual Development of Students

- To provide an opportunity for the celebration of achievement and for focusing on those values which the school is seeking to promote.
- To promote a reflective disposition to the school life and experience.
- To provide an opportunity for encountering the responses to the spiritual dimension of life made by the Christian and other religions.

Moral Development of Students

- To provide a context for considering moral issues.
- To provide a context for reflecting upon and making explicit the kind of behaviour which the school is seeking to promote.
- To promote concern for other people as well as to provide a platform for various charities.

Social Development of Students

- To provide the opportunity for students to gain a sense of Year and school community.
- To provide the opportunity for pupils to come into contact with significant people within the school and wider community.

- To encourage an attitude of acceptance of difference and tolerance of one another.

Cultural Development of Students

- To provide a platform for those members of the community with skills and talents to perform and be appreciated.
- To affirm the backgrounds from which students come.
- To provide a context for celebrating special events of a school, local, national or global significance.

Intellectual Development of Students

- To challenge ideas.
- To increase knowledge.
- To make connections between people, ideas and experiences.

Aims of Assembly and Collective Worship

- To enable members of the school community to come together and to reflect upon the school's communal identity.
- To make explicit the values and assumptions which underpin the day-to-day life of the school and the wider community.
- To celebrate the achievements and special occasions in respect of the pupils (individually and collectively), the school and the wider community.
- To reflect upon and to celebrate the many activities which take place in school.
- To celebrate and affirm difference and diversity.

Aims of Collective Worship (as distinct from Assembly)

- To provide something special or separate from ordinary school activities.
- In the majority of acts of collective worship, to reflect the broad traditions of Christian belief.
- To ensure that collective worship is appropriate for all pupils and teachers.
- To create an atmosphere conducive to silent contemplation reflection and, if appropriate, prayer.
- To heighten pupils' awareness of questions related to the ultimate mysteries of life and to explore beliefs held and commitments made by themselves and others in response to such questions.

Planning, Delivering and Recording

A programme of assemblies and collective worship is planned by members of the Senior Management Team and Year Heads. A rota indicates who will lead the assembly and the theme. Senior Staff, Year Heads and other willing volunteers lead the assemblies and pupil participation is encouraged. Occasionally, an outside speaker is invited to take part. Every pupil (with the exception of those withdrawn at the request of parents and carers) attends the regular Year Assemblies and weekly Full School Assemblies led by the Principal. In addition, there are Lower and Upper

School Assemblies led by a member of the Senior Management Team, a Year Head, or Head of Faculty.

Date adopted by Governing Body: June 2014

Date for Review: June 2016