

Hartismere High School - Policy for Collective Worship

The School will comply with all current statutory the requirements regarding Collective Worship.

The following statement will be conveyed to parents in the School Prospectus and a separate letter is sent home in appropriate languages as part of the Whole School Policy Statement on Religious Education.

The statement clearly describes the rights of parents from different religious and cultural groups, e.g.

- if a predominance is placed upon Christianity during collective worship or R.E. lessons and if that is unacceptable to those children who follow a different faith, parents may request that their children be withdrawn from such collective worship or R.E. lessons;
- if the predominant faith in the School community is non-Christian and the majority of parents and school governors so wish, then the Headteacher can seek/obtain permission from the local Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education for the character of R.E. and worship, to be that of the predominant faith in the School.

Assemblies and other acts of collective worship contribute significantly to the delivery of some aspects of the National Curriculum - particularly 'Citizenship', 'Statement on Shared Values', 'Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development' and certain aspects of the CPSHE course. These are all realms which pupils have an entitlement to experience throughout their education.

An Act of Collective Worship will take place every day. The time at which this takes place and the form of the Collective Worship (whole school, year group or tutor groupings) may vary from day to day.

There are three fundamental principles underlying the provision of our acts of Collective Worship. These principles are broadly outlined below:

- 1) Inclusive in nature;
- 2) Broadly educational in content;
- 3) Specifically Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural in content.

We want our assemblies to:

- have an atmosphere in which everyone feels valued and safe;
- be suitable for every child to attend unless withdrawn by his/her parents/guardians;
- focus on issues and experiences which are relevant to the children;
- include active participation by pupils, parents and members of the local community – either in preparation or in performance.

We also want our assemblies to be:

EDUCATIONAL - this means that we want our assemblies to:

- reflect the aims of the School, and foster a sense of shared values;
- be valuable learning experiences and, as such, to be included in schemes of work and curriculum planning;
- to enhance, complement and extend curricular work;
- to provide an opportunity to celebrate the academic, social, personal or sporting achievements of the children;
- to provide an opportunity to learn how to behave in a large social gathering;

SPIRITUAL MORAL, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL - this means that we want our assemblies to:

- provide a brief period of relaxation from the busy life of school, when children will have time to pause for thought in an atmosphere of peace and quiet. This involves a quiet and well-ordered arrival and departure;
- provide the children with an opportunity to contemplate the spiritual dimension of their life through music, images and words.
- provide an opportunity for private quiet contemplation;
- have a sense of occasion that separates them from the rest of the school day.