



Southend High School for Girls

Collective Worship Policy

Last reviewed: November 2018

SHSG POLICY FOR THE DAILY ACT OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

AIMS to enable every student

- to share values which are broadly Christian.
- to develop her/his own beliefs and values, and respect for those of others.
- to celebrate and appreciate the gifts, talents and achievements of others and of herself/himself.
- to consider the spiritual aspect of her/his life.

Objectives to make provision for students

- to participate in a daily act of collective worship.
- to participate actively.
- to present their own ideas on appropriate issues and listen to those of others.
- to consider and reflect upon a range of worthwhile ideas, including moral/spiritual issues.
- to receive a planned programme which is broadly Christian and also includes aspects of other major world religions.

Implementation

The Head devises and publishes a termly programme of Assembly Themes. A daily act of collective worship is, therefore, provided for all students. Such acts of worship may be led by staff, students or visiting speakers, and may take place in form rooms, house meeting spaces, the main school hall or elsewhere, the groups participating being form groups, house groups, sections of the school or the whole school.

The Act of Worship will be led by the Head, a member of staff, groups of students or a combination of staff/students. The Act of worship may follow the assigned weekly theme, others may use the time to reflect current issues or to embrace the celebrations of festivals as they occur during the year.

Music, poetry and other ways of communicating may be used to enhance the spiritual aspect of life. (A welcome is also extended to visitors who wish to contribute to or lead the Act of Worship).

The schedule is as follows

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| Monday | - Whole School Assembly, 6 th form assembly |
| Tuesday | - Form Period; occasional Year assemblies |
| Wednesday | - KS 3 in the gym, KS 4 in the sports hall, KS 5 in the hall |
| Friday | - Years 7 and 8 on alternate weeks in the gym with occasional KS3, Years 9-11 on rotation in the sports hall with occasional KS4, KS 5 in the hall |

Main School and Sections of School Act of Worship

Any movement to the Act of collective Worship should begin promptly to ensure there is no need for undue haste or loss of curriculum time. Staff and students should be seated so that assembly may start at 8.45am. Students are expected to arrive and enter the space in an orderly, quiet fashion. Silence in Assembly. Full uniform will be worn. The assembly lasts until c.9.00am. Notices are read out. The students should remain seated until dismissed from the hall.

The Form Act of Worship

The form Act of collective Worship is an important opportunity for individuals and groups to present their own ideas and listen to and reflect on others. The “act” may be in the form of a thought for the day, or a more formal presentation. The form tutor may wish to play an active role, or give the responsibility to students. It is expected that the Form Tutor will ensure that an act of worship takes place.

Resources

The school has a collection of assembly books, which is added to when suitable new material is available. These are kept in the staff room and may be borrowed by staff.

Those taking assembly also make use of other materials including newspaper and magazine articles, short stories, poetry and where appropriate, slides, music and video/DVD/CD.

Management and Co-ordination

The co-ordination of the Act of Worship is the responsibility of the Head. The deputy and SLT with the prefects oversee the mechanics of the assembly (entry, exit, rotas, duties etc) – The Head of Sixth Form is responsible for the Wednesday and Friday Sixth Form Assemblies and for the monitoring of form Acts of Worship within the Sixth Form. Heads of Year are responsible for monitoring the Act of Worship within the year groups for which they have responsibility. Form Tutors are expected to be present, unless they have permission from the Head or Deputy, in the Hall, gym or sports hall, with their group during the act of collective worship involving their form groups. They are also expected to oversee the Act of collective worship. Staff who are not form tutors are also expected to attend Acts of Worship, if they are contracted from the start of the school day. Staff have the right to withdraw themselves from overly religious assemblies on the grounds of personal conscience.

Opportunity to Withdraw

Parents who wish to do so have the right to withdraw their daughter/son from any collective act of worship. Students in the sixth form also have the right to withdraw themselves. A request to withdraw a student from the Act of worship should be made in writing to the Headteacher who, with the relevant Head of year, will ensure that appropriate arrangements are made to implement this. If required the Head of Year will use her/his best endeavours to provide a suitable room for individual acts of worship, thoughts or prayers.

Reviewed and revised by Alison Clewlow February 2010

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