



TWO RIVERS
HIGH SCHOOL



Assembly Policy

Cherry Trees School

Review date: Autumn 2021
Curriculum & Learning Committee

Next Review: Autumn 2023

School Context

Cherry Trees School is a generic special school for pupils aged 2 to 11 years in South Staffs. As a school, we strive relentlessly to raise aspirations and attainment by providing high quality teaching and learning in a safe and secure environment in which the pupils' welfare is paramount and where everyone is valued equally. We celebrate the diversity of all our pupils and provide a nurturing environment for effective learning to take place. Our links with the community help to create exciting opportunities for children to learn and gain a well-rounded experience of different backgrounds, cultures and beliefs.

Rationale

Inclusion is extremely important to our vision and we aim for collective worship and assemblies to be inclusive of all pupils. There is an expectation that all pupils are present (except those withdrawn by parents/carers) and staff plan and prepare sessions carefully to meet the differing needs and levels of understanding of the pupils. While the majority of acts of worship in our school are Christian, we ensure our assemblies reflect and explore other religious traditions that are represented in the school and the wider community. Assemblies are a shared activity that provide an opportunity for pupils of any religious faith or none to focus and reflect on different stimuli and develop their social, moral, spiritual and cultural awareness. They also provide a valuable opportunity to promote tolerance and acceptance of all faiths and beliefs, whilst safeguarding pupils against extremist behaviour.

Collective Worship

This policy recognises the school's legal responsibility to provide 'a daily act of collective worship' for all registered pupils (Education Reform Act, 1988), except those withdrawn by parents/carers. In accordance with the Education Act (1993), this should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character', which is defined as being worship which reflects the broad traditions of Christian belief, but not distinctive of any particular Christian denomination.

Every class at Cherry Trees School dedicates time each day for collective worship. This is flexible and may vary from day to day, taking account the pupils' ages, aptitudes and backgrounds. Generally, it will be a time of quiet reflection and celebration at the end of the school day, lasting approximately 10 minutes.

Assemblies

Aims

At Cherry Trees School we aim to achieve the following in our school assemblies:

- Strengthen and support the school community, affirm the shared values and ethos and celebrate each unique individual member.
- Foster and enable a concern for the needs of others.
- Provide the opportunity for pupils to consider spiritual and moral issues and to reflect on their own values and beliefs.

- Lead pupils to a deeper knowledge and understanding of different faiths and world views and promote tolerance and acceptance of these.
- Celebrate and give thanks for achievements within the school, local and international community and occasions of significance, including festivals.
- Contribute to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils.
- Provide an experience of a variety of forms of Music, Art, Drama, story that lead to personal reflection.
- Encourage participation and response.

Organisation

Assemblies are held once a week. Assemblies follow a specified structure, including time given to a different focus or key theme each week. These themes are planned across an annual calendar giving opportunity to develop an awareness of other religious festivals to support diversity. Themes may also relate to local, national and global celebrations, anniversaries and awareness days. All of the themes support our Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) Curriculum and some may create additional opportunities to develop specific links to other subjects and curriculum areas. Time is also given to celebrate pupil successes and achievements.

Music is played before and after our assemblies to highlight that this is a special time for us to be together. Within assemblies, music (instrumental or vocal) may be used to enhance the atmosphere for worship, stillness and reflection, or to inspire thought and talking points in relation to the planned theme and/or the areas of SMSC development.

At present, due to COVID, we are not currently holding meetings with large gatherings but will meet in smaller group bubbles, classes or through TEAMS.

Visitors to school

We strongly believe that visitors can enhance the pupils' experiences and engagement in assemblies and we welcome visitors into school to attend and contribute to assemblies where possible. Visitors provide unique opportunities for pupils to gain direct, personal experience of a range of faiths, cultures and traditions. These opportunities are vital to expanding our pupils' knowledge and understanding of our local community and the wider world. When invited to lead an assembly, visitors must be given clear instructions relating to the age and ability of the pupils, the purpose of occasion or planned theme and appropriate delivery (content and material used). All Visitors have been approved by the Senior Leadership Team. Visitors should report to the office upon arrival and sign in, where they will be greeted and then accompanied by a member of school staff throughout their visit.

Responsibility and Monitoring

Overall responsibility for the provision of collective worship lies with the Executive Headteacher after consultation with the Local Governing Board. The organisation and delivery of assemblies will be planned, monitored and reviewed by the Senior Leadership Team.