

Chilton Trinity Technology College

Collective Worship Policy



RATIONALE

Spiritual development is to be judged by how well the school promotes opportunities for students to reflect on aspects of their lives and the human condition through, for example, literature, music, art, science, religious education and collective worship, and how well the students respond.

The school believes it is important to promote the spiritual, moral, cultural and physical development of the students, and to prepare students for opportunities, responsibilities and experience of adult life. All students are encouraged to take part in collective worship.

AIMS

It provides an opportunity to:

- Encourage students to develop an awareness of the universal moral principles of right and wrong, justice and fairness and a proper concern for the fate of others and the world.
- Affirm and celebrate the values and ethos of the school
- Add to the students' development an awareness of, and a sense of belonging to, the many different dimensions of the school's community.
- Experience the sense of gathering for a special purpose
- Share an experience that promotes thought and reflection
- Promote students' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development
- Provide an opportunity to reflect on practical issues raised by becoming an adult citizen of the world
- Consider and reflect upon a variety of situations and issues and make a personal response;
- Reflect quietly and make an internal response in the light of personal beliefs and background; this may include worship of God within each participant's own faith understanding.

OBJECTIVES

These aims will be achieved by:

- Providing a programme which will affect the attitudes and values which influence the ethos of the School.
- Providing experiences which may help in the later development of spirituality.
- Preparing a programme which will enable students to make decisions about worship in the future.
- Providing a suitable venue to ensure the speaker can be easily seen and heard but still within the group.
- Involving whenever appropriate, students, forms and member of staff in contributing to the content of the assembly.
- Preparing a balanced programme on a termly basis which will support the preceding and following terms.
- Involving outside speakers from the local area to provide new faces and set other standards.
- Ensuring the assembly is well ordered and supported by members of staff.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR ASSEMBLIES

The different year groups will attend three assemblies per week. The two remaining periods will be spent on a programme devised by the Pastoral Team Leader.

The pattern for Assemblies is as follows:

MONDAY	Year 11	-	Hall
	Year 7	-	Gym
TUESDAY	Year 9	-	Gym
	Year 8	-	Sports Centre
	Week 1	-	Key Stage 4 fortnightly - Hall
	Week 2	-	Available for special assemblies for any year group
WEDNESDAY	HOUSE ASSEMBLY:		
	Venus	-	Sports Centre
	Mars	-	Large Dining Room
	Jupiter	-	Gym
	Neptune	-	Hall
THURSDAY	Year 10	-	Hall
FRIDAY	Key Stage 3	-	Hall – on Rota

During examination periods, Assemblies using the Hall transfer to the Sports Centre or the Gym.

KEY STAGE 3 ASSEMBLIES for Years 7 – 9

		<u>Years</u>
Autumn	First half term	8 & 9
	Second half term	7 & 9
Spring	First half term	7 & 8
	Second half term	8 & 9
Summer	First half term	7 & 8
	Second half term	7 & 9

It is the responsibility of the member of staff leading the assembly to prepare the venue, creating an appropriate atmosphere.

The arrangements for assemblies are constantly under review. Difficulties with venues cause us to be unable to meet the requirements of a daily act of worship.

Planning

Visiting speakers are invited to lead assemblies approximately three times per year. They are carefully briefed by a designated member of staff who will ensure they are aware of the format. Discussion also takes place on the suitability and delivery of material.

Time of Day

Assemblies will take place between 8.30 – 8.50 a.m. each day for the appropriate group. Pupils will enter and leave in an orderly manner. During assembly all staff will support to ensure the students are attentive. The speaker will be expected to talk for no more than a maximum of 10 minutes.

Leadership

Assemblies are led by a Pastoral Team Leader.

Content and Method

The speaker will be invited to address the theme for the week. Visiting speakers' themes will be negotiated with the designated member of staff. A variety of methods of delivery will be encouraged using visual aids including music, videos and slides. At all times the speaker will be encouraged to deliver appropriate material which matches the age range of the pupils. Notices will take place at the end of assembly but whenever possible they should be delivered at the Year Assembly and not at the full School Assembly.

LEGAL REQUIREMENTS - OUR RESPONSE

- The School Standards and Framework Act 1998 requires the Headteacher and Governing Body of every school to provide a daily act of Collective Worship which should not be distinctive of the tradition and practice of particular religious denominations.

The response of Chilton Trinity School has been to approach the legal requirements. The speed with which we approach this position has been conditioned by a number of factors:

- a. the need to make our response meaningful, relevant and appropriate to our students and thus meet the spirit of the law**
 - b. the logistics involved in gathering large groups of students in one place in all kinds of weathers and**
 - c. the difficulty in obtaining the interest and co-operation of staff in carrying out collective worship in the classroom which is "wholly or mainly broadly Christian".**
- Parents have the right to withdraw their children from Acts of Worship. Teachers, including headteachers, have the same right of withdrawal.

It is intended that consultation will take place before requests are made to withdraw from Acts of Worship. In the case of parents contact needs to be made with the Headteacher. In the case of teachers this contact is made with the appropriate Pastoral Team Leader. Guidance for new parents on non participation in Acts of Collective Worship is given in the School prospectus.

- In county schools Collective Worship is to be "wholly or mainly broadly Christian".

In any one term the majority of collective acts of worship will reflect the broad traditions of Christian belief and teaching.

- In providing acts of Collective Worship the ages, aptitude and family background of students should be taken into account.

Appropriate account will be taken of the fact that a number of families do not have any religious affiliation.

DFEE GUIDELINES CIRCULAR 1/94 - OUR RESPONSE

- Collective Worship should aim to provide the opportunity for pupils to worship God, to consider spiritual and moral issues and to explore their own beliefs.

This advice would be adequately covered by Chilton Trinity Technology College practice.

- Worship must in some sense reflect something special or separate from ordinary school activities and it should be concerned with reverence or veneration paid to a divine being or power.

Specific time is set aside for this activity but we recognise the difficulty of marking out the act of Collective Worship from other assembly activities.

- An act of worship which reflects the broad traditions of Christian belief need not contain only Christian material..... It must, however, contain some elements which relate specifically to the traditions of Christian belief and which accord a special status to Jesus Christ.

Material for assemblies comes from a wide variety of sources including Christian. A number of assemblies in any term would address the tradition of Christian belief and the special status accorded to Jesus Christ.

A letter was sent to all Somerset schools by Mr Wicks, the Chair of SACRE, with reference to DFEE circular 1/94, stating that

“Somerset SACRE recognises and understands the difficulties that this circular of guidance from the DFEE will represent for some staff - this SACRE will continue to support a broad and educationally hospitable interpretation of the law.”

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