

SHERBURN HIGH SCHOOL COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

PRINCIPLES:

Sherburn High School believes that collective worship both supports and strengthens what we aim to do in every aspect of school life. Our caring ethos and the value which we place on the development of the whole child; spiritually, morally, socially, culturally and intellectually is reflected in our worship. We value this special time in the school day for the space it gives children to develop a reflective approach to life and the ability to express their reflections in traditionally religious ways or any other appropriate manner.

It is a legal requirement that all registered school age pupils take part in an act of worship **each day. These acts of worship must be "wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character" for the majority of the time. They must also be "appropriate, having regard to the ages, aptitudes and family backgrounds of the pupils"**.

Families who send their children to this school are *in the main 'nominally' Christian with some children from practising Christian families, in addition, there are a few children who are from religions other than Christianity and many from non-religious backgrounds.* We recognise that in asking our children to worship we have to consider the background that our children come from and it is therefore not the practice of this school to preach to or convert the **children. The faith background of both the staff and the child's family is respected at all times.**

AIMS:

Through our collective worship we aim to provide a caring and supportive environment for children to:

- Become increasingly aware of themselves as individuals and groups within the school and wider community
- Grow in understanding of the feelings of other people in every day situations and beliefs
- Explore the language which people use to express their feelings
- Deepen their sense of wonder about the world around them
- Grow in confidence when making a presentation to the group or whole school
- Respond freely to religious and/or spiritual stimulus
- **Acknowledge diversity and affirm each person's life stance, whether it be religious or not**

PRACTICE:

At Sherburn High School we combine our daily acts of worship with assembly, helping to ensure that worship takes place within a broad educational framework. There is an assembly each week for every pupil in the school. In addition form tutors lead tutor groups through reflections during tutor time on the 4 remaining mornings per week.

The head teacher and other staff such as House Achievement Leaders may lead the House assemblies each week. Pupils are encouraged to take an active part in both planning and leadership at certain times of the year. Assemblies are sometimes discussed at School Executive Council meetings and they are invited to submit ideas and get other children involved.

The school year has been divided into weekly themes, which sometimes encompass religious festivals, known national or international events, and reflective aspects taken from the school calendar. Staff leading worship can then plan around the themes and a development of ideas can build up.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- The head teacher is responsible (under the School Standards and Framework Act 1998) for arranging the daily collective worship after consulting with the governing body.
- The assistant head teacher is responsible for planning the calendar of themes and **"Thought for the Day" activities on a termly basis. This is discussed in the Achievement Team Meetings, which also provides an opportunity for House Achievement Leaders to give feedback from Form Tutors about assemblies and "Thought For the Day".**
- All Form Tutors follow the tutorial programme in tutor time.
- Parents of a pupil have a right to withdraw their children from collective worship. If a parent asks for their child to be wholly or partly excused from attending collective worship at the school the school must comply unless the request is withdrawn. Any parent who wishes to exercise this right should consult the head teacher.
- The Education and Inspection Act 2006 makes provision for pupils in post-16 education to exercise the right to withdraw themselves from the daily act of collective worship, but not from assembly.

DISSEMINATION:

This policy is shared with all staff through policies shared via the intranet. Parents have access to this policy through the website.

MONITORING AND REVIEW

The Assistant Headteacher reviews this policy on a three yearly basis.

DATE REVIEWED: December 2014

DATE OF NEXT REVIEW: April 2019