




**THE
LONG EATON
SCHOOL**

Assemblies and Acts of Collective Worship Policy

Date Drafted:	September 2019
Date Approved by Governors:	1/10/19
Signed:	
Review Frequency:	Every Two Years
To be Reviewed By:	Miss Gould

Rationale

The Long Eaton School will make every effort to conduct assemblies in accordance with the spirit of the 1988 Education Act in respect of Acts of Collective Worship. Assemblies will be broadly Christian in nature and follow a Theme for the Week. They will be linked to The Long Eaton School Vision and to the skills, qualities and attributes highlighted in the High Performance Learning culture. The school believes that assemblies are instrumental in promoting character, education and the Fundamental British Values which form the ethos of the school and in providing students with an opportunity for collective reflection and the consideration of spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) issues.

Assemblies will also take into account current local, national and global issues that are topical and essential to students' awareness for their personal and collective safety or their role as local or global citizens.

On the basis of these values, the assembly programme will:

- Develop in students an understanding of character strengths and weaknesses
- Develop students' self-respect and self-discipline
- Clarify the meaning and purpose in their lives and help students to decide, on the basis of this, how they believe their lives should be lived
- Develop knowledge of, and respect for, different people's faiths, feelings and values and develop students' ability to reflect about their own beliefs (religious or otherwise)
- Raise aspirations by encouraging students to strive, throughout life, for knowledge, wisdom and understanding

The school is committed to developing skills of citizenship and assemblies provide an opportunity to share community values and celebrate success.

Logistically we cannot accommodate more than one year group at any one time but the Theme for the Week is explored through class discussion with form tutors during the morning registration time.

Aims

- To contribute towards the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of students and promote Fundamental British Values.
- To develop a community spirit.
- To promote a common ethos and shared values.
- To explore ways in which to live in harmony, with due care, respect and consideration for ourselves, others and the environment.
- To encourage students to explore and reflect on their own beliefs, attitudes and experience.
- To provide opportunities for students to reflect on spiritual, moral, social and cultural issues
- To raise aspirations and celebrate success.
- To promote equality by tackling all forms of discrimination and by directly addressing issues such as homophobia, transphobia, hate and racism.
- To raise awareness of the role Anti Bullying Ambassadors and other anti-bullying strategies.
- To promote healthy life styles and raise awareness of the School Health service
- To promote personal safety.
- To provide CEIAG and prepare students for making informed decisions.
- To promote the House System and encourage students to make a positive contribution by participating in House events.
- To seek opportunities to invite outside speakers to address students on the Theme of the Week, health, safety and careers.
- To provide an opportunity for students to actively engage in the delivery of assemblies.

Objectives

- Each year group meets for one assembly per week and led by the Achievement Leader, Head of Year, a member of the Senior Leadership Team or Head of House.
- Assemblies will focus on the Theme for the Week and explore spiritual, moral, social and cultural issues. The themes promote British Values, global awareness and the development of the skills, qualities and attributes highlighted in the High Performance Learning culture.
- Assemblies include a period of quiet reflection.
- Each week the Theme for the Week is displayed in tutor rooms.
- CEIAG and eSafety is delivered through assemblies at key points in the year.
- The Theme is introduced by Tutors considering its meaning and interpretation in line with the stated aims for Acts of Collective Worship.
- Students engage in a variety of activities including whole class discussion, individual and group presentations, research etc.
- Student achievement is recognised and praised during assemblies.
- Live music is performed by students and used to enhance the assembly whenever possible.

Expectations

- All students are expected to participate in the assemblies and related activities with Tutors, unless withdrawn at the request of parents.
- Students are expected to enter and depart in a respectful manner.
- All staff are expected to attend assemblies, to register and supervise their tutor group by sitting with them, although they may withdraw for that part of the assembly which contravenes their religious beliefs.

Roles and Responsibilities

The Assistant Headteacher (Pastoral) has overall responsibility for the assembly programme including mapping assembly themes, organising the assembly rota, including the assembly programme which is delivered by the Senior Leadership Team. Records of assemblies are kept to check quality and themes delivered.

The Heads of Year and Achievement Leaders are responsible for overseeing the assembly programme for their Year group and the Heads of House are responsible for the House Assemblies.

Government guidance regarding withdrawal

Government guidance states 'Under the terms of their funding agreement with the Secretary of State, all academies have to provide RE for all their pupils, except for those whose parents exercise the right of withdrawal.' [DfE website, RE in academies 2.9.14] We request that those who wish to exercise this right inform the Head Teacher in writing so that school records are accurate. We also appreciate opportunities to speak with parents and staff who have concerns about collective worship, as we are always keen to develop our understanding of sensitivities and to overcome difficulties where possible.

Monitoring

- A central record is kept of all assemblies to check quality and themes delivered
- Achievement Leaders have responsibility for monitoring all Tutor based activities within their year groups, including exploring the Theme for the Week.
- Assemblies will be observed during the year as part of the Student Development Self Evaluation process.
- The policy will be regularly reviewed and presented to Governors. It will be available on the school web site and to parents for inspection.

