



Collective Worship

Philosophy

Ashcroft High School is not a faith based school but we value collective worship and reflection. We believe that the use of assembly and House group time for collective worship should be educational and inclusive. In compliancy with the law the themes are 'wholly and broadly of a Christian nature', however, the values we promote are ones common to all major faiths and Humanism. Collective Worship contributes to the spiritual, moral, personal, social and cultural development of students; it promotes British Values and reflects the inclusivity of the Ashcroft Family.

Aims

We aim to:

- a) Develop a community spirit, a common ethos and shared values
- b) Show concern for daily happenings in school life, the local community and the wider world.
- c) Consider spiritual and moral issues
- d) Encourage a reflective approach to life
- e) Increase sensitivity so students are more aware of the search for meaning and purpose in life
- f) Explore and review our values, attitudes and standards as a school
- g) Share and appreciate difference and the worth of others
- h) Celebrate special occasions, achievements etc
- i) Develop a group identity (House group, House, school)
- j) Provide opportunities to learn how to behave in a large social gathering both as 'performers' and 'respondents'
- k) Reflect on values that are of a broad nature and on personal beliefs
- l) Introduce students to elements of religious worship in an open and honest atmosphere
- m) Encourage students to express their ideas and responses in a variety of different ways
- n) Enable student growth through a sense of self-worth and through a supportive atmosphere
- o) Encourage development of intrapersonal and interpersonal skills

To achieve our aims we will:

- a) Provide a daily act of collective worship for all students usually in a House assembly or in the form of a 'Thought for the Week' during House Hroup time (apart from those students who have been withdrawn by parents)
- b) Provide an appropriate atmosphere of respect and reflection
- c) Involve the whole school community (including SLT, teachers, House parents, students)
- d) Devise assembly/House group time themes and topics that promote reflection and human values including British Values

- e) Monitor our use of assembly/ House Group time through record keeping and evaluative discussions with teachers, students, governors, inspectors and advisors
- f) Provide assembly/tutor time resources
- g) Provide INSET to tutors.

Success Criteria

We will know we have achieved our aims when:

- a) Withdrawal rates from 'worship' are minimal (i.e. worship at Ashcroft is seen as inclusive)
- b) The aims and values of the school are known and shared by the whole school community
- c) Assembly and House Group time contributes to development of a whole school ethos
- d) Assembly/house group time demonstrably contributes to the spiritual, moral, personal and development of our students

- e) Our use of assembly/House Group time is consistent with a multi-faith society and our equality policy
- f) Teachers and students are included in assembly/House Group time
- g) We can demonstrate that collective worship promotes learning
- h) Collective worship at Ashcroft is synonymous with celebration, enjoyment, fun, spiritual challenge, quiet reflection and learning

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| Approved by Governing Body of Ashcroft High School: | |
| Policy Review date: | |
| Governors' Committee | FGB |
| SLT staff responsible | Ms M Austin |
| Statutory Policy: Yes / No | Yes |