



WANSTEAD HIGH SCHOOL

Collective Worship Policy Statement

**Approved by Governors: FGB 22 March 2016
To be reviewed: March 2019**

Wanstead High School

Collective Worship Policy Statement.

Wanstead High School believes that collective worship and / or reflection can support and strengthen every aspect of life, which includes British values in developing the whole child; spiritually, morally, socially, culturally and intellectually. We value this time in 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.

Families who send their children to our school are from different nationalities and faiths. Some practise their chosen religions other do not. In addition there are children who are 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 and reflection we aim to provide a caring and supportive environment for young people to:

- Become increasingly aware of themselves as individuals and groups within the school and wider community
- Grow in understanding of the feelings of the 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
- Mark celebrations of the major festivals of Christianity and of other faiths
- Access topical matters from the news or the locality
- Access literature with implicit or explicit religious teaching
- Enjoy an appreciation of the natural world and human activity
- Enjoy the use of music

PRACTICE:

At Wanstead High School we combine our acts of worship and reflection with assembly, helping to ensure that worship takes place within a broad educational framework. Assemblies are held once a fortnight for each cohort where every pupil in the school is required to attend. In addition Personal Tutors are required to prompt students within their group on reflective thinking during tutor time, encouraging students to participate in assembly presentations.

Wanstead High School Governing Body: Student and Community Committee 17/03/16: Agreed and recommend to FGB for adoption

Members of the Senior Leadership team and Heads of Year lead the whole school assemblies each week. Pupils are encouraged to take an active part in both planning and leading in assemblies at calendared times of the year.

Assemblies are calendared throughout the year and encompass some religious festivals, known national or international events, and aspects taken from the school calendar, these are published on the whole school calendar.

Assemblies vary in format to reflect the differing needs of school groups, as well as provide opportunities for staff/pupil involvement. Assemblies will provide the opportunity to look at world culture, moral aspects and social gatherings.

See Appendix 1 for further guidance on assemblies.

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Appendix 1:

ADDITIONAL GUIDANCE ON PLANNING AND CONDUCTING ASSEMBLIES

In planning our assemblies, we choose from a range of methods, including:

- Pupil's contributions
- Dance/drama
- Quiet reflection
- Artefacts/natural materials
- Visual aids/focal points
- Dialogue/creative silence
- Visitors
- SMSC (Social Moral Spiritual and Cultural)

SONG/MUSIC

Song/music is a very powerful means of creating the right atmosphere and unifies and uplifts the school community. Music from a variety of cultures and types is used on occasions. Music should be selected carefully to match the theme.

PERSONAL PRAYER/REFLECTION

The use of prayer has led to a great deal of debate. We feel that, whilst prayer is a good way of enabling children to focus their thoughts, pupils should not be required to say or affirm prayers in which they do not believe. It is not always necessary to have a prayer, and as an alternative the use of regular moments of silence provides opportunities for all students to respond in a personal way if they so wish.