



Gillingham School

Assembly and Collective Worship

DCSF definition

'Collective Worship will be wholly or mainly of a broad Christian character, reflecting the broad traditions of Christian Belief. It will be non-denominational in character. It should be appropriate to the family background, ages and aptitudes of the pupils involved.'

Notes:

There is, of course, the issue that Year Groups contain students from a wide range of family backgrounds and of all aptitudes.

At the moment it is not possible to provide a daily act of collective worship without severe disruption to the curriculum. It is the school policy that Assemblies should be high quality, reflective, spiritual and moral experiences and that ensuring this quality is of great importance in the context of the school's inability to meet a requirement for a daily act of worship.

Our aims are:

- To reflect upon the meaning and purpose of human existence and to develop a sense of awe and wonder.
- To consider in a broadly Christian context important social issues such as racism; sexism; bullying and discrimination of all kinds.
- To provide a broadly Christian viewpoint and context for important, and perhaps morally disturbing, national or international events.
- To help students to develop, explore and evaluate their own beliefs in relation to those of others.
- To celebrate special occasions and show appreciation of talent and achievement within our community.
- To celebrate religious festivals where appropriate.
- To reflect on the aims and ethos of our school and develop a supportive and positive culture.
- To provide opportunities for reflection on particular issues as they occur and need to be discussed with the school community.
- To contribute to the Citizenship programme.

Delivery of Assemblies

Assemblies will be delivered by Senior and Pastoral staff weekly on a rota basis to each Year Group. In order to ensure an appropriate atmosphere for reflection students must be seated on chairs, enter quietly and in full uniform. Notices should be kept to a minimum, though celebrations of achievement are an important element in developing aspirations and pride within the Year Group.

Assemblies can be expected to last approximately fifteen minutes. Tutors should be present unless involved in mentoring or other pastoral activity.

Students should be encouraged to present assemblies whenever possible. There are considerable resources in the Professional Library.

The objectives of the assembly should be clear and summed up at the end. Hopefully they will be enjoyable.

Withdrawal from Collective Worship

Parents can ask for their child to be totally or partially withdrawn from collective worship or religious education. Reasons for the removal of their child do not have to be given, but discussion with parents is recommended. Sixth Form students can withdraw themselves from collective worship.

Assembly themes

Hopefully these themes are sufficiently broad to avoid repetition. However, it may be sensible to coordinate with colleagues when specific themes seem to generate similar presentations.

September - October:

- Gillingham School Values
- NPDZ
- Respect for self and others
- Co-operation and trust
- Racism
- Prayer and silence
- Peace and war

November - December:

- Decision making and choice
- Existence of God
- The value and meaning of love
- 'Do unto others...'
- Bullying
- Discrimination
- Jesus - the evidence

January - February:

- Compassion
- Positive thinking
- Caring for others; no man is an island
- Friendship
- Courage to do what is right
- Forgiveness
- God - the evidence

March - April:

- Acceptance; counting your blessings
- Faith
- Practical applications of prayer and belief
- Environmental issues
- Peer pressure; self awareness
- The meaning of Easter
- Suffering – is there any meaning?

May - July:

- Honesty with ourselves and others
- Mercy
- Temptation
- The mystery of life
- 'Let he who is without sin...'
- Religion and Science
- What have you achieved this year?