

Roundwood Park School



Collective Worship Policy

Reviewed: March 2022

Next review: March 2025

(Standards and Curriculum Committee, Full Governing Board)

Principles:

Roundwood Park School believes that collective worship both supports and strengthens what we aim to do in every aspect of school life. Our caring ethos, symbolised clearly in our LIFE motto (Learning, Integrity, Friendship, Excellence), 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 students 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 students”.

Families who send their children to this school are from a broad range of religions, including Christian, Hindu, Jewish and Muslim families. In addition, there are children 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 the other people in everyday 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

Roles and Responsibilities

- The Headteacher is responsible (under the School Standards and Framework Act 1998) for arranging the daily collective worship after consulting with the governing body.
- The Assistant Headteacher (Key Stage 5) is responsible for planning the calendar of themes and oversees the assembly and Tutor Time Sessions activities on a termly basis, under our 'Ingredients of a RPS Tutor Session' framework.
- All Form Tutors follow their Head of Year's weekly schedules, with a range of activities that encourage the use of questioning and reflections as part of each tutor session. All year groups use The Day, Thanks resources and encourage students to reflect as part of a tutor time activity.
- All teaching staff are required to attend assemblies unless they have formally withdrawn from them by putting their request in writing and meeting with the Headteacher.
- Parents of a student 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 Headteacher.
- The Education and Inspection Act 2006 makes provision for students in post-16 education to exercise the right to withdraw themselves from the daily act of collective worship, but not from assembly.
- The Assistant Headteacher (Key Stage 5) is responsible for ensuring that parents are reminded on an annual basis of the content of this policy via the school website and RoundUp.

Practice, Content and structure of assemblies

- At Roundwood Park school we combine our acts of worship with assembly, helping to ensure that worship takes place within a broad educational framework. There is one assembly each week for every student in the school. In addition, form tutors lead tutor groups through reading and reflection activities during tutor time on the four remaining mornings per week.
- The assembly, usually year group or House, is addressed for 20 minutes on a topic of the speaker's choice but usually linked to the directed theme of that week. This theme or material is often reflected or developed on further in subsequent tutor sessions
- Heads of Year, senior staff or students, often Student Leadership Government Captains [e.g. Environment, Diversity and Well-being, or House Captains leading on competitions and charity], lead assemblies each week.
- Students are encouraged to take an active part in both planning and leadership at certain times of the year. Assemblies are discussed at Student Leadership Parliament meetings where students are invited to submit ideas and get other students involved.
- The school year has been divided into weekly themes, which encompass religious festivals, known national or international events, and aspects taken from the school calendar. Staff leading assemblies and reflection times plan around the themes and a development of ideas can build up.

- 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.
- Occasionally, appropriate outside speakers are invited to take an assembly. These range from organisations such as our whole school charities, the Duke of Edinburgh's award scheme, Services for Young People or the school's Police Community Support Officer (PCSO).
- Assemblies taken by senior leaders and pastoral staff generally include a moral theme and may well draw reference to the beliefs of a range of religions.
- The assembly is usually started or concluded with an opportunity to reflect or think quietly.
- Notices/administrative matters follow, as well as the opportunity for Heads of Year to give out certificates, to congratulate individuals and groups of students on their recent achievements, both in and out of school.

Monitoring and Review

The Deputy Headteacher and Assistant Headteacher (Key Stage 5) monitor the implementation of this policy on a continual basis.

The Standards and Curriculum committee review this policy every three years. This review completed by: Mr Glen Pettengell and Mrs Katie Barter, Deputy Headteachers, March 2025

This policy has undergone an equality impact assessment in accordance with the school's Public Sector Equality Duty under the Equality Act 2010.