

Featherstone High School

Collective Worship & Religious Education Policy



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Non-Statutory Policy

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1.0 Provision for Collective Worship

“All schools must provide daily collective worship for all registered pupils, apart from those who have been withdrawn by their parents” Education Act 1996

- The school will facilitate a daily act of collective worship for all students apart from those who are specifically withdrawn by their parents/carers.
- The Headteacher is formally responsible (under the School Standards and Framework Act 1998) for arranging the daily act of collective worship after consulting the governing body. In practice, this responsibility is devolved to the Deputy Head Teacher in charge of SMSC.
- The school obtained a Determination from the local SACRE (Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education) to withdraw from a Christian act of collective worship on 26.6.2013. This was last updated in June 2018.
- The daily act of collective worship (or reflection) will take place during assembly or registration. It will involve students taking part in a variety of activities that are inclusive and acceptable to all stakeholders.
- During registration, tutors will share the daily ‘Reflections’ – see below.
- The religious festivals of the major religions are commemorated. These include Christmas, Easter, Guru Nanak’s birthday, Diwali and Eid ul-Fitr. Where these festivals fall during weekdays an occasional day holiday may be given. These are planned by subject specialists.
- An annual events calendar for assemblies and reflections is written and given to all staff to guide themes.

2.0 Aims and Motivations

- To give the whole school body a daily opportunity to be calm, reflective and at one.
- To promote the school’s values of democracy, morality, cultural diversity, justice, tolerance, liberty and community.
- To build bonding and bridging capital and to encourage participation in school and beyond.
- To use real life experience including religious events and current affairs to shine a light on values.
- To encourage all to question and to think.

3.0 Assemblies

- Assemblies are held weekly where the whole year group attends, they are held in the main hall. These were held virtually during the COVID pandemic.
- Assemblies are to be held as timetabled in the main hall.
- Termly celebration assemblies take place across all year groups.

Responsibility for the delivery and planning of assemblies; the responsibilities for planning and delivery of assemblies lie with the Head of Year (HoY) in each year group. The Deputy Head of Year (DHoY), tutors and students in the year group contribute frequently. Other individuals in the school such as the Senior Leadership Team (SLT), Senior Pastoral Team (SPT), Lead Teachers (LTs) and PSHE coordinators deliver assemblies relevant to their role. The RE department plans and organises the delivery of assemblies on the major religious festivals. The History and Science departments also may provide materials for some assemblies.

- Assemblies always include music and a time for reflection including a spiritual message. This information is on the annual events calendar. The HoY may choose to add to prepared assemblies in order to differentiate them for their year group. Key events such as Black History Month are also prepared centrally. Again, the HoY may choose to add to these but should discuss them with their SPT LM in the first instance.
- External organisations and partners are often invited in to take part of an assembly.
- A moment of silent reflection is planned in all assemblies.
- Assemblies are themed – these may be religious themes i.e. a religious festival or other e.g. Remembrance Sunday or anti-bullying week.
- Students often are active in presenting and delivering assemblies, in order to encourage participation and engagement.
- Assemblies will use a variety of stimuli including music, poetry, video clips, speeches, role play and interactive activities.
- Assemblies should have a planned activity to grab students as they enter e.g. a quote, a question or a clip.
- All assemblies have music as students enter.
- Assemblies are recorded on the SMSC assembly tracker. This includes details of the themes, messages and issues addressed as well as areas of strength and development to be fed back to the assembly lead. It is the responsibility of the HoY to ensure these are kept up to date and sent to the SPT LM so that SMSc is tracked and monitored.
- Feedback is shared with HoYs as well as those who plan and deliver assemblies each term.

4.0 Reflections

Reflections are delivered daily for all students in years 7-13 in registration by the tutor. These **must be shown on the board and engaged with for part or all of registration.**

- Reflections focus on the FHS values, literacy, numeracy activities as well as current affairs to encourage thought, engagement and reflection.
- The HoYs monitor that the reflections take place across their year group.
- These are centrally prepared by the PSHE co-ordinator on a weekly basis and often linked to a Global, National or Religious event in that week.
- If students are self-isolating at any point, tutors should provide them with a copy of the reflections and this.
- Reflections activities are multi-sensory with images, music, discussion and, where possible or relevant, a news clip.
- Students have a moment's silence to pause for thought and then discuss with others in the class.
- Each week has FHS skill/attribute and a value for the week. The value for the week is explored and given practical application through a daily thought for the day (usually a quote) and an image, which are delivered as a think, pair, share activity.
- Each week focuses on key vocabulary from the academic word list. Activities within reflections develop students' understanding of this vocabulary through practical application.
- Each day of the week then has a theme/activity which is agreed in year teams. For example:
 - **Monday** - enrichment - tutor to read student notices, **Tuesday** - Local news, **Wednesday** - National news, **Thursday** - Global news, **Friday** - literacy and "a final think" - a tricky moral rhetorical question (think, pair, share).

5.0 Expectations and Conduct in Assemblies

Before the Assembly

Students are to line up in the playground in forms in register order, outside the assembly hall. They need to be in silence so that the register can be taken.

Form Tutors/Staff are to assist in the lining up of students in register order and to quieten and calm the students into a reflective mood. They then take the register either on their tablet or on paper and wait with students at the front of the queue.

The Pastoral Team will support staff and students from the front and back to quieten and calm the students into a reflective mood.

Once the HoYs signals, the tutor leads each form in a single file in silence into the assembly hall.

During the Assembly

Students: enter the hall and sit in the designated area for their form. They sit in register order in silence listening to the music or initial activity of the assembly.

Form Tutors/Staff: Ensure that students enter quickly and deal with any disobedience of the Ground Rules by asking students to sit at the side of the hall. Staff are to be seated down the side of the main body of students. They take the register in the hall if not already taken in the playground. Tutors do not call out names but use a glance method. As far as possible all members of staff should be seated during assemblies.

Pastoral Teams and SPT: One will be placed at the front welcoming the students, and the others are placed around the hall supporting behaviour. The DHoY should complete the SMSC tracker.

Assemblies in most cases will be led by the HoY, DHoY, tutors or students.

To minimise disruption to assembly other staff should not walk through the hall.

Leaving the Assembly Venue

Students are to be dismissed in register order and leave the venue in silence, row by row. In the case of assemblies held at the end of the school day, the tutors in assemblies should assist in the dispersal of students from the site.

6.0 Monitoring of Assemblies and Reflections

- The first Year Team Meeting of the academic year (led by the HoY), should outline the themes across the year. All tutors and tutor groups should contribute in planning and leading an assembly throughout the year.
- The DHT overall charge of assemblies will review assembly content to double check appropriateness, to support the team.

- The HoYs will need to ensure that the materials for each assembly are shared with their SPT LM SLT with overall responsibility for SMSC by the end of the week. Presentations are placed in the shared drive.
- The HoY makes and updates an assembly calendar for their year group.
- The assemblies and reflections are to be monitored by relevant members of SLT to ensure age appropriate activities and content.
- Cancelling an assembly can only be agreed by the SPT LM attached to the year group in an event of an emergency.