



STREATHAM & CLAPHAM HIGH SCHOOL

ASSEMBLY POLICY

Person(s) responsible for this policy		Deputy Head Mistress, Head of Prep	
Last review by	Mrs G Cross, T Mylne	Review date	September 2018
Date of next review		September 2021	

Senior School

Rationale

At Streatham & Clapham High School we believe that assemblies are fundamental in promoting the ethos of the school and providing students with the opportunity for collective reflection and the consideration of spiritual, moral, social and cultural issues.

The Assembly programme of the school supports the stated statutory guidance: to value ourselves as unique human beings capable of spiritual, moral and intellectual growth and development.

Aims and Objectives

The Assembly programme is designed to provide opportunities for:

- A focal point for school programmes and initiatives
- Exploring current local, national and international issues
- Considering issues that affect personal or collective safety
- Clarifying the meaning and purpose in our lives and how we believe we should live
- Lifelong learning to acquire knowledge, wisdom and understanding
- Developing some of the skills and knowledge required to be a positive member of society, thus contributing to the teaching of citizenship
- Sharing community values and collective and individual success
- Fostering self-esteem, sense of identity, spiritual development, appreciation of awe and wonder, openness and tolerance, and the ability to reflect on these qualities and other aspects of life's fundamental experiences
- The promotion of the school's commitment to equality by celebrating, giving value to, and learning about, different ethnic and faith groups, especially those represented within the school community

Procedures

In the Senior School the school meets for assembly on Fridays, with House assemblies on Mondays or Thursdays. The Sixth Form may also meet on Wednesdays. Whole School Assemblies are led by a member of the Senior Leadership Team.

- Assembly is from 8.35 am until 8.50 am.
- Student involvement in House Assemblies is actively encouraged; each year group takes Assembly once during the year and focus groups (the mentor team for example) lead assemblies on a particular theme (anti-bullying week for example).
- Staff, either as a result of departmental or individual focus, lead House Assemblies on a regular basis.

- There are occasional speakers: from charitable organisations for example
- Music always accompanies the lead into, and out of, Assembly.
- We expect an orderly and silent entry to and exit from Assembly.

Roles and responsibilities

- The Deputy Head (Pastoral) has overall responsibility for the assembly programme to include:
 - drawing up themes when appropriate
 - organising the assembly rota
 - keeping records of assemblies to check topics and themes delivered
 - Monitoring to assure the quality of what is delivered and that it is in line with the stated aims of the school assembly policy.

Prep. School

Assemblies and the development of Spiritual, Moral and Social Awareness Policy

Aims and purpose

We aim:

- to develop in children a sense that they belong to a community
- to promote a common ethos with shared values
- to celebrate positive achievements
- to consider spiritual, moral and social issues
- to provide information about the different religious and non-religious beliefs about where we came from and how we should live our lives
- to enable children to reflect on their own beliefs and those of others;

Development of Spiritual, Moral and Social Awareness

We recognise that assemblies are one way in which we will develop pupils' spiritual, moral and social awareness. It is a time when we give pupils the opportunity to gather together as a community and to celebrate our shared values and to find out about and reflect on matters that affect us and others.

We also endeavour to explore these issues in particular subjects such as Religious Education and PSHCE (Personal, social, health and citizenship education) as well as when opportunities arise in whatever we may be doing such as in extracurricular activities or in our day to day interactions with one another.

Religious Background

We recognise that our pupils and staff come from a variety of cultural and religious backgrounds. We do not seek to promote any particular religion but we do recognise that Christianity has a particular significance in this country.

We aim for assemblies to be inclusive and whilst many have a broadly Christian theme others reflect other religious and non-religious traditions.

We conduct our assemblies in a manner that aims to be sensitive to the individual beliefs of all members of the school. We expect children to behave in a tolerant and respectful way. We ask them to listen carefully and invite them to join in the singing of hymns. We ask children to reflect on issues rather than using specific prayers. We speak of what particular faiths believe rather than assuming that all hold the same beliefs.

Organisation of assemblies

We hold a whole school Head's Assembly on a Monday. We hold separate Upper School and Lower School assemblies on alternate Tuesdays. We also hold a whole school class led assembly on a Wednesday and parents are invited to watch. On alternate Thursdays the four Houses hold separate assemblies. We hold a merit assembly every Friday and all pupils from Reception upwards attend. This is a celebration assembly at which positive achievements both in and out of school are recognised. Certificates are awarded to a pupil in each class in Reception upwards to recognise a particular achievement that week. The House cup is awarded to the House winning the most house points. The class cup is awarded by the head girl to the class she deems has earned it with their behaviour or for a specific achievement.

The SEAL programme is followed and all staff take a turn to conduct the Tuesday assemblies.

Themes

We take the themes of our assemblies from a number of areas including the traditions of the Christian faith, the festivals and events of a range of cultural and religious backgrounds. We also use the Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning (SEAL) materials to promote the values we consider important. Sometimes the themes of our assemblies reflect and build on topics that we teach as part of the school curriculum or charity events or House initiated ideas.

A calendar of possible themes for assembly is produced but we will also respond to particular events or needs as they arise. The Pastoral team oversee this.

Right of withdrawal

We expect all children to attend assembly. However, a parent can request for their child to be excused from attending religious worship and the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during the period concerned. Parents do not have to explain or give reasons for this.

The Head of the Prep keeps a record of all children who are withdrawn from religious worship.

Monitoring and review

It is the role of the Head of the Prep School in consultation with the Head Master to monitor this policy and its practice.