

LVS ASCOT

Assemblies and Collective Worship Policy

1. Assemblies and Collective Worship is an area of LVS Ascot School life which provides an opportunity for the spirituality of students, staff and governors to find expression and development, whilst building a caring community based upon Christian principles.
2. Assemblies and collective worship are gatherings of people of diverse, religious, agnostic and non-religious backgrounds and does not pre-suppose any particular religious commitment.
3. Assemblies & Collective worship at LVS Ascot will:
 - Promote British Values across our community
 - Encourage individuals to reflect upon spiritual and moral values by presenting issues which relate to their development, and fostering a sense of belonging to the school as a community.
 - Present ideas for discussion and thought based around the school's five aims.
 - Explore beliefs and faith.
 - Mark and celebrate the main festivals in the Christian calendar (Harvest Festival, Christmas and Easter) and to promote an understanding of their origins and significance.
 - Encourage participation and response.
 - Develop community spirit, promote a common ethos and shared values.
 - Promote an awareness of causes and social concerns in the contemporary world for which the school might, where practicable, provide some active support.
 - Reinforce positive attitudes and promote an ethos which values imagination, inspiration, contemplation and a clear sense of right and wrong.
 - Promote knowledge, critical understanding, and respect of beliefs upon which Western law and institutions are founded.
 - Encourage intelligent appreciation of all faiths and viewpoints held by LVS Ascot staff, children and families.
 - Enable opportunities to participate in diverse experiences of worship, and in particular, incorporate silence for reflection and prayer
 - Encourage lively reflection on contemporary ethical and political issues
 - Encourage balanced view to be put forward.

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4. The school is required to provide an opportunity for an act of collective worship for all students.
5. During time set aside for collective worship other activities should, where safe and practical, be set aside for every individual to take a few moments to 'pause for thought', have silent reflection, personal prayer or to join in the saying of a communal prayer.
6. Spiritual and moral topics will be provided for group discussion and reflection. Collective worship should normally take place during the time allocated for assemblies.
7. The school shall make arrangements for any pupil who is a boarder at the school the opportunity to attend worship in accordance with the tenets of a particular religious denomination on Sundays or other days exclusively set apart for religious observance by the religious body to which his/her parent belongs.
8. Every effort will be made to enable members of the school community from all faiths, who wish to observe the requirements for prayer particular to their beliefs are able to do so in accordance with the doctrines of that faith.
9. Staff are not required to lead collective acts of worship, but they are expected to be sympathetic to the Christian ethos of the school and to support this by attendance at assemblies and services.
10. The legal right of parents to withdraw children from collective worship is acknowledged. Such right is exercised through a written request to the Principal.

Leadership

The Deputy Head (academic & Co-curricular) is responsible for the planning and delivery of Whole School assemblies.

Assembly Schedules

Whole Senior School assembly – every week on Monday, period 1.

House assembly – every week during AM registration.

Head of Year assembly – approximately two per half term.

There are a number of Junior School assemblies per week including Head Teachers' assembly, Key Stage assembly and hymn practice.

Other combinations of year groups or whole school Year 0 – 13 assemblies are held as and when appropriate.

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Conclusion

LVS Ascot holds that assemblies and services of collective worship can make significant contributions to pupils' spiritual, moral and cultural development. In the context of the school's Christian history and ongoing identity and ethos, LVS strives to ensure that all assemblies and acts of collective worship are inclusive, educational, pragmatic and reflective; providing valuable experiences in the lives of individual students and of the school community as a whole. This policy aims to ensure this is achieved.

Last reviewed: 21.11.2018
Reviewed by: C Cunniffe and SMT
Review no later than: 21.11.2019